UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Sixteenth session)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 25 (A/46/25)

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Report of the Governing Council on the work of its sixteenth session*

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	INTRODUCTION	1	1
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	2 - 22	2
	A. Opening of the session	2 - 3	2
	B. Attendance	4 - 11	2
	C. Election of officers	12	5
	D. Credentials	13	5
	E. Agenda	14	5
	F. Organization of the work of the session	15 - 18	6
	G. Work of the sessional committees	19 - 22	7
II.	MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIFIC ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	23 - 59	8
	A. Date and place of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council	23	8
	B. Special session of the Governing Council in 1992	24	8
	C. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment	25	8
	D. Desertification	26 - 29	8
	E. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas	30 - 31	9

* The full proceedings of the Council on the work of the session, containing, inter alia, chapters on the discussions in plenary meetings and the reports of the sessional committees has been circulated to Governments as document UNEP/GC.16/27.

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	F. Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme	32	10
	G. United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance	33	10
	H. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	34	10
	I. Enhancing United Nations coordination of environmental activities	35	11
	J. Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227	36 - 37	11
	K. Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone	38	11
	L. Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies	39 - 40	12
	M. Climate change	41	13
	N. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	42 - 59	13
III.	ADOPTION OF DECISIONS	60 - 184	18
Annex.	Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session		33

INTRODUCTION

1. The sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 20 to 31 May 1991. The Council adopted the present report at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May 1991.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

2. The sixteenth session was opened on 20 May 1991 by Mr. I. N. Topkov (Bulgaria), President of the Governing Council, at its fifteenth session.

3. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which he welcomed participants and drew attention to the main programme and financial issues before the Council at the session. The statement was subsequently issued as document UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.8.

B. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Governing Council 1/ were represented at the session:

Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Barbados
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Czechoslovakia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey

Uganda
Ukraine*
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zimbabwe

5. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Australia
Belarus**
Belgium
Cyprus
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Iceland
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Lebanon
Malawi
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nigeria
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Seychelles
Somalia
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

6. The Holy See, not a Member of the United Nations, was also represented by an observer.

7. The following United Nations bodies and secretariat units were represented:

Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC)

United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

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* As of 24 August 1991, the official name of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic has been changed to Ukraine.

** As of 19 September 1991, the official name of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has been changed to Belarus.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations University (UNU)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Bank

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

9. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commission of the European Communities

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

Permanent Commission for the South Pacific

Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC)

10. In addition, 11 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

11. The following other organizations were represented by observers:

African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)

Palestine

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

C. Election of officers

12. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Mr. L. P. J. Mazairac (Netherlands)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. H. Dalindra Aman (Indonesia)
Mr. C. A. Liburd (Guyana)
Mr. F. Penazka (Czechoslovakia)

Rapporteur: Mr. J. Atwoki Kamanyire (Uganda)

D. Credentials

13. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May.

E. Agenda

14. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its fifteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/1):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Executive Director's reports.

5. State-of-the-environment reports.

6. Coordination questions:

   (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

   (b) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

8. The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Council.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

15. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.16/1/Add.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/1/Add.1, annex I).

16. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure and following the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (sect. II, para. 2, of decision 15/1, of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council, at its opening meeting, established two sessional committees of the whole, a Programme Committee to deal with programme matters and a Fund Committee to deal with the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters. The Council decided that the Programme Committee should be allocated, in addition to agenda item 7 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification), agenda items 6 (a) (Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) and those parts of agenda item 6 (b) (Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination) dealing with the coordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The Council also decided that the Fund Committee should be allocated agenda item 8 (The Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters) and, during its consideration of the item, should take into account the report of the Executive Director on the Fund target for 1995 (UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.5).

17. It was agreed that the Programme Committee and the Fund Committee should be chaired respectively by Mr. Liburd (Guyana) and Mr. Penazka (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Presidents of the Council. The Council also decided that Mr. Dalindra Aman, Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President in the performance of his functions.

18. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended presidential negotiating group, with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft policy decisions before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

G. Work of the sessional committees

19. The Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Liburd (Guyana), held 13 meetings, from 20 to 27 May. At its 1st meeting, it elected Mr. J. N. O. Onyango (Kenya) as Rapporteur and approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.1.

20. The Council took note of the Committee's report (UNEP/GC.16/26) at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May.

21. The Fund Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Penazka (Czechoslovakia), held nine meetings, from 20 to 24 May. At its 1st meeting, it elected Mr. C. Gamba (Colombia) as Rapporteur and approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.1.

22. The Council took note of the Committee's report (UNEP/GC.16/25) at its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May.

CHAPTER II

MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIFIC ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Date and place of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council

23. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May 1991, the Governing Council decided that its seventeenth regular session would be held at Nairobi from 10 to 21 May 1993.

B. Special session of the Governing Council in 1992

24. At its 8th plenary meeting, the Council decided to hold a special session of the Governing Council from 3 to 5 February 1992 in order to consider the various reports to be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by or through, inter alia, the Governing Council.

C. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

25. In paragraph 2 of its decision 16/43 of 31 May 1991 (see annex below), the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to transmit, on its behalf, his updated report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.16/19 and Corr.1), together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

D. Desertification

26. In response to General Assembly resolutions 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 39/168 B of 17 December 1984, by which the Assembly requested the Governing Council to continue to report every other year to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to make the necessary arrangements at each session for submitting a report to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Governing Council, in paragraph 2 of its decision 16/22 A of 31 May 1991, authorized the Executive Director to submit his report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the period 1989-1990 (UNEP/GC.16/16), which includes a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, on behalf of the Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

27. In paragraph 1 of its decision 16/22 B of 31 May 1991, on financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Governing Council recommended that, pending action by the General Assembly on

the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the mandate of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, should be changed to concentrate on information exchange and coordination, reviewing the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and exchanging information on scientific research in that field, national programmes and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and advising on further action against desertification. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to expedite the studies requested by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director, on the financing of the Plan of Action and other aspects of supporting it.

28. Following the adoption of decision 16/22 B, the Executive Director said that it was his understanding of paragraph 1 of that decision that he should recommend to the General Assembly that the mandate of the Consultative Group be changed, since the Assembly had established the Group and was the only body with the authority to make such a change.

29. By paragraph 1 of its decision 16/22 E of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to expedite the comprehensive implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Executive Director, to prepare, inter alia, a report containing financial and technical expert studies on ways and means to combat desertification effectively and a general evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

E. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas

30. At its sixteenth session, the Governing Council had before it the Secretary-General's report on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, 2/ prepared pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 for submission to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and the Governing Council.

31. In its decision 16/27 A of 31 May 1991, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

F. Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme

32. In section I, paragraph 1, of its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 3/ with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, 4/ the Committee on Conferences 5/ and the additional conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the resolution, taking into account the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly. 6/ In response to the various modifications introduced to programme 16 (Environment) of the proposed plan by that resolution, the Governing Council, by its decision 16/24 of 31 May 1991, recommended to the General Assembly that, the Assembly should:

(a) Maintain the high priority assigned by the Council to the preparation of multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

(b) Keep the title of subprogramme 13 as "Technical and regional cooperation";

(c) Maintain the text of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) in the medium-term plan.

G. United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance

33. Environmental emergencies were a subject of discussion at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, during which the Assembly approved resolution 44/224 on 22 December 1989, in which it, inter alia, recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats. By its decision 16/9 of 31 May 1991, the Council endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to proceed with the development, on an experimental basis, of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance, acting in close cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies, focusing on assessment of and responses to man-made environmental emergencies. The mechanism would act upon the request of the Government concerned and maintain rosters of experts and a list of appropriate equipment to be used in such emergencies, ensuring that that did not duplicate the existing activities and responsibilities under existing international treaties and of other United Nations bodies in those fields and that it maintained proper liaison with them.

H. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

34. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted, on 21 December 1990, resolution 45/190 on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Further to that resolution, the Governing Council, by its decision 16/10 of 31 May 1991, requested the Executive Director, in consultation with

the coordinator of the Chernobyl programmes of the United Nations and taking into account the work carried out by relevant international organizations, to consider the possibilities of UNEP in the practical implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190.

I. Enhancing United Nations coordination of environmental activities

35. By its decision 16/18 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council, recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, and 44/228 of 22 December 1989, recommended that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development give priority consideration to ways and means of bringing about more effective arrangements for comprehensive coordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system, at the inter-agency level, as well as at the intergovernmental level, bearing in mind the experience gained from the institutional arrangements contained in Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), taking into account, as appropriate, any other relevant considerations regarding United Nations system-wide or related international coordination.

J. Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227

36. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989 on implementation of its resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, respectively. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 44/227, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Governing Council of UNEP and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution.

37. At its sixteenth session, the Governing Council had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General called for in General Assembly resolution 44/227. 7/ By its decision 16/20 of 31 May 1991, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session.

K. Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone

38. By its decision 16/29 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council, noting General Assembly resolution 45/263 of 13 May 1991 on assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of the devastating cyclone, urged the Executive Director of UNEP to provide and facilitate obtaining all possible assistance in short- and

long-term measures, within available resources, for the protection of the environment in Bangladesh, including an urgent case-study by UNEP on the coastal areas of Bangladesh, within the context of ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/Interim Steering Committee on Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Zone Management and of UNEP. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Council appealed to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh to mitigate the suffering of the victims and to prevent further consequences of the environmental disaster.

L. Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies

39. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of UNEP, to prepare a report containing proposals and recommendations on, inter alia, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency.

40. At its sixteenth session, the Governing Council, in its decision 16/37 of 31 May 1991, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (UNEP/GC.16/17 and supplement) and requested that it be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, together with its supplement, which summarized the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system; expressed the view that assessments were particularly needed in all those areas of concentration identified by the Governing Council in section IV of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 and enumerated by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 for consideration at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; expressed the view that Earthwatch should also be able to accommodate emerging issues as and when the need arose; recommended that, in keeping with its mandate, Earthwatch should identify global and regional environmental monitoring and assessment needs, coordinate and harmonize global, regional and national monitoring and assessment programmes to the extent required, prepare comprehensive assessment statements, inventories and analytical statements, give advanced warning of emerging environmental threats, advise on causal relationships of observed environmental changes and suggest policy responses and management options where necessary, and should pay particular attention to the interface between environment and development; and requested the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the environmental monitoring and assessment capacities of developing countries to enable them to participate actively and more fully in Earthwatch and to prepare detailed proposals for ensuring adequate financial and institutional support to enable Earthwatch to carry out fully its mandated programmes, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session, on the basis of the decisions taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's report.

M. Climate change

41. In section I of its decision 16/41 of 31 May 1991 on climate change, the Governing Council, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990 on climate change and, in particular, its paragraphs 1, 7, 12 and 21, urged States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through UNEP and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support actions aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity. Sections II to IV of the same decision deal with matters related to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Climate Programme.

N. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

42. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, decided, inter alia, to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to establish a Preparatory Committee for that Conference. In section II, paragraph 9, of the same resolution, the Assembly requested UNEP, as the main organ dealing with environmental issues, to contribute fully to the preparations for the Conference on the basis of guidelines and requirements to be established by the Preparatory Committee. Pursuant to that request, the Governing Council, at its sixteenth session, adopted a number of decisions of relevance to the preparatory process for the Conference.

Institutional aspects of United Nations environmental activities

43. In paragraph 3 of its decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council invited the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, when considering the institutional aspects of environmental activities in the United Nations system, to take fully into account the views and decisions of the Governing Council and the resolutions of the General Assembly regarding the strengthening of UNEP.

Environmental information

44. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 16/2 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council suggested that the Preparatory Committee should consider the feasibility of linking existing environmental databases with any new systems for collection of development data generated by the Conference process to help countries to take account of environmental concerns in their development planning, and recommended that the Preparatory Committee should elaborate a strategy to assist developing countries to access and retrieve such data; and, in paragraph 6, the Council requested the Executive Director to bring the decision to the attention of the Preparatory Committee.

World environment academy

45. In its decision 16/8 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council, having considered the report of the Executive Director on a world environment academy (UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1), realized that the establishment of a world

environment academy should be considered within the context of the discussion on legal and institutional issues taking place in the Preparatory Committee and requested the Executive Director to bring the matter to the attention of the Committee.

Report on the state-of-the-environment since the Stockholm Conference

46. In paragraph 2 of its decision 16/15 C of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to expedite the preparations for the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report covering the 20 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, called for by its decision 15/13 A of 23 May 1989, for it to be available at the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Following the adoption of that decision, the Executive Director said that he would do all in his power to comply with that request, but that there were limitations over which he had no control.

Coordination of United Nations environmental activities

47. In paragraph 2 of its decision 16/18 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council recommended that the Preparatory Committee should give priority consideration to ways and means of bringing about more effective arrangements for comprehensive coordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system, at the inter-agency level, as well as at the intergovernmental level, bearing in mind the experience gained from the institutional arrangements contained in resolution 2997 (XXVII), taking into account, as appropriate, any other relevant considerations regarding United Nations system-wide or related international coordination.

Interaction between environmental degradation and poverty, health and population

48. In paragraph 4 of its decision 16/19 of 31 May 1991, on reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), the Governing Council supported the views expressed by ACC regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular that the Preparatory Committee should give greater attention to the issue of the cumulative interaction between poverty, health and population, on the one hand, and environmental degradation, on the other (UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1, para. 31).

Desertification

49. In paragraph 8 of its decision 16/22 A of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to contribute fully to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on his efforts to the Preparatory Committee through, inter alia, the drafting of a consolidated report to be made available to the Committee at its fourth session and giving a progress report to the Committee at its third session, since the Committee had decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that session.

50. In paragraph 3 of its decision 16/22 C of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council urged the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to contribute fully to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, to the comprehensive report on desertification for the Conference.

51. In paragraph 3 of its decision 16/22 D of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council, after taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1), requested the Executive Director to forward the approved findings and recommendations along with decision 16/22 D to the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

52. In its decision 16/22 E of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to prepare a report containing financial and technical expert studies on ways and means to combat desertification effectively and a general evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, together with contributions from the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, for presentation to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, with a progress report being given to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, since the Committee had decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that time.

Oceans and coastal areas

53. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision 16/26 A of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue the preparation of elements for draft strategy options and actions to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, in close cooperation with, inter alia, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and decided to invite the Preparatory Committee at its third session to give policy guidance to a meeting of government-designated experts to be convened to formulate a draft strategy, including a targeted and costed programme of action for reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas.

54. By its decision 16/26 B of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to arrange for the completed report on strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas, commissioned in a joint effort by UNEP and IOC of UNESCO, to be submitted to, inter alia, the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, through the appropriate channel.

Hazardous wastes

55. In its decision 16/30 A of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to prepare, through the Interim Secretariat for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and in cooperation with, inter alia, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, draft elements of an international strategy and an action programme, including technical

guidelines, for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes; further requested the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene an ad hoc committee of government-designated experts to consider the draft elements and a possible international strategy and action programme; and also requested the Executive Director, through the appropriate channels, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session, on progress made and, at its fourth session, on the outcome of the meeting of government-designated experts.

Toxic chemicals

56. In section II, paragraph 1, of its decision 16/35 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to prepare, in cooperation with, inter alia, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals; further requested the Executive Director to convene, in cooperation with, among others, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, a technical meeting of experts to consider the draft proposals and, in consultation with the executive heads of ILO and WHO and, through the appropriate channels, to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session a report on the outcome of the meeting.

International Conference on Water and the Environment

57. The Governing Council, in its decision 16/39 of 31 May 1991, having taken note of the Preparatory Committee's decision, adopted at its second session, on the International Conference on Water and the Environment to be held in Dublin in January 1992, by which the Committee invited Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other interested organizations to engage actively in the preparatory process for the Dublin Conference, took note with appreciation of the contribution being made by UNEP to the preparations for the Conference and requested the Executive Director to continue to give full support to those preparations, including financial contributions within available resources.

International environmental law

58. By paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 16/43 of 31 May 1991, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to make the report and the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4) available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, and called upon the Executive Director, in furtherance of the objectives of the Preparatory Committee, to cooperate fully in reviewing the effectiveness of existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

Other decisions to be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee

59. The following decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session included a specific request that they should be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee: decision 16/7, on volunteers for the environment, decision 16/9, on a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance, and decision 16/34, on an international environmental technology centre.

CHAPTER III

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS*

Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/1)

60. At the 8th meeting of the sixteenth session, on 31 May 1991, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.54), prepared on the basis of earlier drafts submitted by Uganda, on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 (UNEP/GC.16/L.33) and by Guyana (UNEP/GC.16/L.36 and Corr.1).

61. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

62. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States of America said that he wished to correct the false impression given by certain daily newspapers in Nairobi that the United States wanted UNEP headquarters moved to another location. The United States considered it important that UNEP headquarters should be in a developing country, and that Nairobi was an excellent site. It did, however, believe that some activities should be based in other countries, but only in those cases where that would strengthen rather than weaken the Programme.

63. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the statement of the United States. The attitude of the United States during the session had made it very clear that the reports in local newspapers were misleading.

Integration of environment and development (decision 16/2)

64. Also at the 8th meeting of the session, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.46), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Jamaica, Norway, the United States of America and Venezuela (UNEP/GC.16/L.32).

65. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Special session of the Governing Council in 1992 (decision 16/3)

66. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Netherlands (UNEP/GC.16/L.57), whose representative requested that it should be put immediately to a vote by roll-call.

67. The representative of Mexico, speaking on a point of order, said that he wished to introduce an amendment to the draft, by which the operative part would be deleted and replaced by a single paragraph reading as follows:

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* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session, see the annex to the present report.

"Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consider the documents referred to in the preamble to the present decision and requests the Executive Director to forward them in due course, together with the Committee's comments thereon, to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

68. The President said that the motion of the representative of Mexico was a proposal and would therefore be considered after the vote on the draft decision submitted by the Netherlands, in accordance with rule 54, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

69. After a brief procedural discussion in which the representatives of Mexico, Argentina and the Netherlands took part, the Council decided, by a vote of 16 to 9, that the motion of Mexico should be treated as an amendment and should therefore be voted on first, in accordance with rule 53, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

70. The amendment of Mexico was put to a vote and was rejected by 22 votes to 18.

71. Draft decision UNEP/GC.16/L.57 was then put to the vote by roll-call and was adopted by 30 votes to 8, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe.

Against: Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, New Zealand, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Oman, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions (decision 16/4)

72. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.49).

73. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Rationalization of Governing Council documentation (decision 16/5)

74. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.38), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.9).

75. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/6)

76. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.43), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Morocco, the Netherlands, on behalf of the States members of the European Communities, and Uganda (UNEP/GC.16/L.30).

77. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Volunteers for the environment (decision 16/7)

78. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.51), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Guyana and Norway (UNEP/GC.16/L.35).

79. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

World environment academy (decision 16/8)

80. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.50).

81. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance (decision 16/9)

82. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, Germany, Guyana, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe (UNEP/GC.16/L.14/Rev.1).*

83. Following an intervention by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Council decided to insert the words "for its consideration" after the words "its third session", in paragraph 7 of the draft decision.

84. The draft decision, as orally revised by the representative of the USSR, was adopted by consensus.

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* After the adoption of the decision, the UNEP secretariat was informed that Canada had wished to join the sponsors of the draft decision.

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant (decision 16/10)

85. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belarus, Bulgaria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia (UNEP/GC.16/L.17).

86. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Military conflicts and the environment (decisions 16/11 A and B)

87. At the same meeting, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.53), prepared on the basis of two earlier drafts submitted, respectively, by Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen (UNEP/GC.16/L.27/Rev.1) and by Austria, Finland, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland (UNEP/GC.16/L.29).

88. The representative of the Netherlands pointed out that the word "organizations" should have been included after the word "intergovernmental" in the third line of subparagraph (a) of the operative part of draft decision A.

89. The draft decision, as orally corrected by the representative of the Netherlands, was adopted by consensus.

90. The representative of the United States of America, speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decisions, said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus, particularly with regard to decision 16/11 A, but had certain reservations about decision 16/11 B, in that it saw no reason for the Council to take a position on arms control agreement, a matter better left to arms control experts.

91. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Kuwait expressed his gratitude to the Governing Council and to the Executive Director for their initiative in monitoring the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the consequent destruction of the environment in Kuwait and the other Gulf States. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had had a serious and devastating effect on the environment in Kuwait and the Gulf in general. Seven hundred oil wells had been burning since January, representing an environmental and health hazard to humans, particularly children, who represented the future of Kuwait, and old people, and to all other living creatures. The danger of such effects inside and outside Kuwait could not yet be estimated. It was no secret that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had had and still has devastating implications on the marine environment in the Arab Gulf. Iraq had destroyed marine life by deliberately spilling large quantities of oil amounting to several million barrels into the sea, while the Iraqi mines in the Gulf had contaminated drinking water in the region. Finally, stressing the enormity and the appalling nature of the environmental effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he expressed the hope that UNEP and the other United Nations agencies would take more urgent action to put an end to or contain them and expressed his

appreciation to the members of the Council and to all the States that have agreed to give prominence to such a vital and crucial decision in the interest of the world and humanity at large.

Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment (decision 16/12)

92. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on the subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.22), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.8).

93. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 16/13)

94. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on the subject submitted by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan (UNEP/GC.16/L.28/Rev.1).

95. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a vote on the draft decision was taken by roll-call. The draft decision was adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

96. The Secretary of the Council announced that the UNEP secretariat had received a communication from the representative of Jordan indicating that, had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft decision.

97. Speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the States members of the European Communities that are members of the Governing Council, and on behalf of Austria, said that those States had abstained in the vote on the draft decision because they believed that the decision touched on political issues that came within the purview of other forums. It was neither appropriate nor in the best interests of UNEP that the Governing Council should be burdened with political matters.

98. The representative of the United States said that his delegation had strongly opposed the adoption of the draft decision, which did not address environmental issues, as it claimed to do, but focused on matters outside the purview of UNEP. The decision served no useful purpose, environmental or otherwise, and its adoption risked jeopardizing UNEP.

99. The representative of Finland said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because, while it agreed with the thrust of the draft, it had reservations about some of its wording.

100. The representative of Norway said that Norway had abstained for reasons similar to those outlined by the representative of the Netherlands: the decision dealt with political issues that fell within the purview of other bodies.

101. The representative of Argentina said that Argentina's abstention in the vote in no way meant a change in its deep-rooted concern about the illegally occupied territories. There were, however, some elements in the text that prevented Argentina from voting in favour.

102. The observer for Morocco, speaking on behalf of the members of the Group of Arab States that are members of the Governing Council, said that those States believed that the contents of the decision did indeed fall within the purview of UNEP, as they concerned the environment in the occupied territories. He hoped that the Executive Director would follow-up the decision and obtain the information necessary to complete the database. He also hoped that the Executive Director would be able to gather information from inside the occupied territories in whatever way he deemed appropriate.

103. The representative of Canada said that his delegation regretted the lack of consensus on the draft decision. The interests of UNEP would not be furthered by the politicization of its work. Canada had therefore abstained in the vote.

104. The observer for Lebanon said that the database should contain information on the environmental situation in the occupied Lebanese territories, which paralleled that in the other occupied areas.

105. The observer for Palestine expressed his gratitude to the Council for its adoption of the decision. He hoped that those delegations that had abstained would change their position in the light of the continuing deterioration in the situation as long as the occupying Power continued its practices and schemes to eliminate the Palestinian people and settle imported hordes of Jews and so-called Jews from all over the world. Drawing attention to the devastating consequences of inaction, which could only lead to further injustices, he said that those who turned a blind eye to the problem would be held responsible as the security situation deteriorated. It was essential to ensure that the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination, were respected. The Palestinian people was, however, indivisible in its determination not to live as second-class citizens. God would save the oppressed from the United States hegemony represented by the so-called new world order, the struggle would continue, and the occupation would end.

Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision 16/14)

106. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.20/Rev.1).

107. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

State-of-the-environment reports (draft decisions 16/15 A to C)

108. At the same meeting, the Council had before it three draft decisions on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.21 and Corr.1, draft decisions A to C), prepared on the basis of earlier drafts submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.4, L.6 and L.7).

109. The draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

110. Following the adoption of the decisions, the Executive Director said that he would do all in his power to give effect to paragraph 2 of decision 16/15 C. There were, however, limitations over which he had no control.

Emerging environmental issues (decision 16/16)

111. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.44/Rev.1), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.10).

112. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Hazardous environmental events (decision 16/17)

113. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.39), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.11).

114. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Enhancing United Nations coordination of environmental activities (decision 16/18)

115. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.47), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bulgaria and the United States of America (UNEP/GC.16/L.31).

116. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (decision 16/19)

117. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.23), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/L.12).

118. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (decision 16/20)

119. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.52).

120. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 16/21)

121. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.13).

122. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Desertification (decisions 16/22 A to E)

123. At the same meeting, the Council had before it four draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 7 A to D) approved by the Programme Committee, on the basis of drafts submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.4 and L.5), and amended by the Committee on the proposal of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

124. The Council also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 2) and another draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.48), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Morocco on behalf of the African Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.37).

125. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

126. After the adoption of the decisions, the Executive Director said that his understanding of paragraph 1 of decision 16/22 B was that the Council was requesting him to make a recommendation on the subject to the General Assembly, which had established the Consultative Group for Desertification Control and was the only body with the authority to change its mandate.

Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and the supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991 (decision 16/23)

127. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 10) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.16).

128. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 16/24)

129. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 15) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of the suggested action contained in the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2), as amended by its Chairman.

130. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres (decision 16/25)

131. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 5) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.12).

132. The Council also had before it an amendment to the draft decision submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 1).

133. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Oceans and coastal areas (decisions 16/26 A to C)

134. At the same meeting, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 13 and 19) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of informal texts circulated, respectively, by Chile, Colombia and Peru and by Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mauritania, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, Sweden, Thailand and Tunisia, with amendments proposed by the United States of America.

135. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 6) and another draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.41) on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.26).

136. The Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, introduced a further amendment to the amendment submitted by the Bureau to the draft decisions submitted by the Programme Committee.

137. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau and the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, were adopted by consensus.

Sea-level rise (decisions 16/27 A and B)

138. At the same meeting, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decisions 14 and 18) approved by the Programme Committee, the first on the proposal of the Chairman and the second on the basis of an informal text circulated by France, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States of America, with amendments introduced by Australia, Barbados, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and at the suggestion of the secretariat.

139. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to one of the draft decisions (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 5).

140. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

Cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East Pacific (decision 16/28)

141. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.24), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Chile, Colombia and Peru (UNEP/GC.16/L.15).

142. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone (decision 16/29)

143. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Asian Group (UNEP/GC.16/L.16/Rev.1).

144. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Hazardous waste (decisions 16/30 A and B)

145. At the same meeting, the Council had before it two draft decisions on this subject, one approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by Greece, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 22) and the other submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.40), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Burundi, Kenya, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (UNEP/GC.16/L.25).

146. It also had before it an amendment submitted by the Bureau to the draft decision submitted by the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 8).

147. The draft decisions, as amended by the Bureau, were adopted by consensus.

List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (decision 16/31)

148. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 4) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.3), as amended by France and the Netherlands.

149. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Industrial accidents (decision 16/32)

150. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 2) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.8), as amended by Norway.

151. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology (decision 16/33)

152. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 9) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.9), as amended by Brazil.

153. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International environmental technology centre (decision 16/34)

154. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.45), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Thailand (UNEP/GC.16/L.34).

155. The representative of Japan introduced a number of amendments to the draft.

156. The draft decision, as amended by the representative of Japan, was adopted by consensus.

157. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Argentina said that his delegation had a number of reservations about the text: first, no study had been presented to the Council to support the establishment of the centre; second, there were many complex conditions set and decisions to be taken without any reference to the Governing Council; and, third, the proposed centre appeared to be more of a training and advisory centre rather than one that would promote the transfer of technology. Indeed, there was some lack of compatibility between the text of the decision and Japan's actual position on the question of transfer of technology.

Toxic chemicals (decision 16/35)

158. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 21) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

159. The Council also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 7).

160. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system (decision 16/36)

161. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 12) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Belgium, France, Malawi, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as amended by Argentina and, following a statement by the observer for WMO, by the Chairman.

162. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.56, amendment 3).

163. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies (decision 16/37)

164. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 20) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.17), as amended by Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom and revised by the Chairman, following an intervention from the observer for FAO.

165. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements (decision 16/38)

166. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 3) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.10), as amended by the Chairman, following a statement by the observer for WMO.

167. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Freshwater resources (decision 16/39)

168. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 11) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Denmark,

Finland, Norway and Sweden, as amended by the Chairman, following a statement by the representative of the Executive Director.

169. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Protection of the ozone layer (decision 16/40)

170. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 16) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.7), as amended by the United States of America and Sri Lanka on behalf of the Asian Group.

171. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Climate change (decision 16/41)

172. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 17) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an informal text circulated by Barbados, Canada, France, New Zealand and Sweden, as amended by Brazil, India, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

173. It also had before it an amendment proposed by the Bureau to the draft decision (UNEP/GC.16/L.50, amendment 4).

174. The draft decision, as amended by the Bureau, was adopted by consensus.

Preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity (decision 16/42)

175. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 8) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.6), as amended by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Kenya and the Netherlands, as well as by the Chairman, following a statement by the observer for UNESCO.

176. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 16/43)

177. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.16/L.18 and Corr.1, draft decision 6) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/PC/L.2), as amended by Barbados, Canada, Greece, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

178. The Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that the word "updated" should have been included before the word "report" in the first line of paragraph 2 of the draft.

179. The draft decision, as orally corrected by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the Programme Committee, was adopted by consensus.

Decisions 16/44 to 16/47

180. Decisions 16/44 to 16/47 were adopted on the basis of draft texts approved by the Fund Committee (UNEP/GC.16/L.19), as amended by the Bureau (UNEP/GC.16/L.55 and Corr.1). Except as indicated below, the draft decisions were approved in the Committee and adopted by the Council at the 8th meeting of the session, on 31 May, by consensus and without comment.

The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1990-1991 and proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 (decision 16/44)

181. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman, as amended by Botswana, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.5).

Programme and programme support costs (decision 16/45)

182. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.7), as amended by Austria, Chile, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Trust funds (decision 16/46)

183. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.4), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.2) and amended by Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Global Environment Facility (decision 16/47)

184. The Committee had approved a draft decision on this subject submitted by its Chairman (UNEP/GC.16/FC/L.6), as amended by the Netherlands.

Notes

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, on 24 October 1988, the 45th plenary meeting of the forty-fourth session, on 6 November 1989, and the 66th plenary meeting of the forty-fifth session, on 12 December 1990 (Assembly decisions 43/308, 44/309 and 45/317).

2/ A/46/156-E/1991/44, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/18).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/45/16).

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 32 and addendum and corrigendum (A/46/32 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

6/ A/C.5/45/42.

7/ A/46/138-E/1991/52, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/14).

ANNEX

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
16/1	Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme	31 May 1991	37
16/2	Integration of environment and development	31 May 1991	38
16/3	Special session of the Governing Council in 1992	31 May 1991	39
16/4	Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions	31 May 1991	40
16/5	Rationalization of Governing Council documentation	31 May 1991	41
16/6	Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme	31 May 1991	43
16/7	Volunteers for the environment	31 May 1991	44
16/8	World environment academy	31 May 1991	45
16/9	United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance	31 May 1991	45
16/10	Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	31 May 1991	47
16/11	Military conflicts and the environment		
	A. The environmental consequences of the armed conflict in the Gulf area	31 May 1991	48
	B. Environmental effects of warfare	31 May 1991	49
16/12	Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment	31 May 1991	50
16/13	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories	31 May 1991	51
16/14	Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean	31 May 1991	52

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
16/15	State-of-the-environment reports		
	A. The 1990 state-of-the-environment report, "Children and the environment"	31 May 1991	53
	B. The 1991 state-of-the-environment report, "The state of the world environment 1991"	31 May 1991	55
	C. The 1992 and 1993 state-of-the-environment reports	31 May 1991	55
16/16	Emerging environmental issues	31 May 1991	56
16/17	Hazardous environmental events	31 May 1991	57
16/18	Enhancing United Nations coordination of environmental activities	31 May 1991	57
16/19	Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination	31 May 1991	59
16/20	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227	31 May 1991	60
16/21	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	31 May 1991	60
16/22	Desertification		
	A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	31 May 1991	61
	B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	31 May 1991	63
	C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	31 May 1991	64
	D. External evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification	31 May 1991	65
	E. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A	31 May 1991	66
16/23	Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991	31 May 1991	66

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
16/24	Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme	31 May 1991	70
16/25	Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres	31 May 1991	71
16/26	Oceans and coastal areas		
	A. Marine pollution from land-based sources	31 May 1991	75
	B. Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas	31 May 1991	76
	C. Expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific	31 May 1991	77
16/27	Sea-level rise		
	A. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas	31 May 1991	78
	B. Sea-level rise vulnerability assessments	31 May 1991	78
16/28	Cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East Pacific	31 May 1991	80
16/29	Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone	31 May 1991	80
16/30	Hazardous waste		
	A. Environmentally sound management of hazardous waste	31 May 1991	81
	B. Comprehensive approach to hazardous waste: recommendations for the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.II/4 B	31 May 1991	83

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
16/31	List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance	31 May 1991	85
16/32	Industrial accidents	31 May 1991	86
16/33	Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology	31 May 1991	87
16/34	International environmental technology centre	31 May 1991	88
16/35	Toxic chemicals	31 May 1991	89
16/36	Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system	31 May 1991	92
16/37	Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies	31 May 1991	93
16/38	Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements	31 May 1991	94
16/39	Freshwater resources	31 May 1991	95
16/40	Protection of the ozone layer	31 May 1991	96
16/41	Climate change	31 May 1991	97
16/42	Preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity	31 May 1991	100
16/43	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment	31 May 1991	101
16/44	The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1990-1991 and proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995	31 May 1991	102
16/45	Programme and programme support costs	31 May 1991	105
16/46	Trust funds	31 May 1991	108
16/47	Global Environment Facility	31 May 1991	112
	Other decision		
	Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council	31 May 1991	113

16/1. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, which established the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to integrate the twin issues of environment and development,

Aware of Governing Council decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, which reaffirmed the United Nations Environment Programme's essential role as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system,

Noting the growing need for even more effective coordination and direction of the ever-increasing variety and intensity of environmentally related activities throughout the United Nations system, as well as the large international context in which the United Nations system operates,

Noting the overall efficiency of the operation of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi, in particular the cost and efficiency advantages of using centralized facilities,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that more effective arrangements be provided to ensure the effective and comprehensive coordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system to enable it to meet the new and expanding requirements placed upon it by the ever-increasing complexity of global environmental challenges facing the international community, taking into account the Programme's mandate on global environmental issues;

2. Supports the strengthening of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and the retaining of the programme activity centres already located there in view of the success the United Nations Environment Programme has achieved from this venue;

3. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, when considering institutional aspects of environmental actvities in the United Nations system, to take fully into account the views and decisions of the Governing Council and the resolutions of the General Assembly regarding the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Decides that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, be centred principally at Nairobi;

5. Requests the Executive Director to inform all States of offers from Governments of major new facilities to be sited outside Nairobi and to seek comments for his guidance;

6. Requests the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office at Nairobi, including external communication services, and to report progress to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/2. Integration of environment and development

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need to integrate on a permanent basis the twin issues of environment and development in the work of the United Nations system and in the perspective and follow-up action to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in a way that reflects the aspirations and expectations of all countries,

Recognizing that concern for global environmental problems and resource allocations thereto must complement, and not detract attention from, efforts by the world community to support sustainable development, to eliminate constraints to the achievement of that goal and to combat poverty, which is both a cause and a consequence of environmental degradation,

1. Decides that the seventeenth session of the Governing Council will focus particularly on the integration of environment and development in the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and in the follow-up actions arising from the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. Requests the Executive Director and the secretariat of the Programme to contribute actively to the solution of the problems of technology transfer to the developing countries, particularly in the pursuit of the concept of sustainable development;

3. Suggests that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should consider the feasibility of linking existing environmental databases with any new systems for collection of development data generated by the Conference process to help countries to take account of environmental concerns in their development planning;

4. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee elaborate a strategy to assist developing countries to access and retrieve such data;

5. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that all documentation for future sessions of the Governing Council reflects an integrated approach to developmental and environmental concerns, as appropriate;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to bring the present decision to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/3. Special session of the Governing Council in 1992

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the introductory report of the Executive Director, including his recommendations to strengthen further the United Nations Environment Programme and to hold a special session of the Governing Council in 1992, 1/

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, in which it was decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that the Council requested the Executive Director at its fifteenth session, in 1989, to prepare a state-of-the-environment report for submission to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 2/

Also considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, after consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, a report on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing,

Further considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through, inter alia, the Governing Council, a consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987,

1. Decides to hold a three-day special session of the Governing Council from 3 to 5 February 1992 at Nairobi;

2. Calls upon Governments to be represented at this session at ministerial or equivalent level;

1/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.6 and Corr.1.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25), annex I, decision 15/13 A of 23 May 1989, para. 7.

3. Approves the provisional agenda for the special session, as annexed to the present decision.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

ANNEX

Provisional agenda for the third special session of the Governing Council

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing.

6. Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

7. Adoption of the report.

8. Closure of the session.

16/4. Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implications for the Governing Council of the challenges and demands for the 1990s, 3/

Taking into consideration the views expressed in the general debate at the present session of the Council, 4/

3/ UNEP/GC.16/4 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 43-64.

4/ See chap. III of the proceedings of the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.16/27).

Requests the Executive Director to bring his proposals on the organization of the plenary meetings of the Governing Council to the attention of the Council at its seventeenth session, taking into account the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/5. Rationalization of Governing Council documentation

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly section II of that decision, concerning the role of the Governing Council,

Recalling also its decision 14/5 of 17 June 1987 on the rationalization of documentation for meetings of the Governing Council,

Recalling further that, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, documents are to be prepared and distributed at least forty-two days in advance of sessions of the Council,

Concerned about the volume of documentation for regular sessions of the Council, which has, on occasion, prevented timely distribution in accordance with the rules of procedure,

Desirous of reducing the extremely heavy workload of the secretariat of the Programme in connection with the processing of Council documents in the months immediately preceding sessions of the Council,

Conscious of the importance of a number of documents being submitted to the Council primarily for information,

Aware of the difficulties of providing, in a single operative Governing Council document, all the necessary information for each substantive agenda item,

1. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue his efforts, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to rationalize and reduce the documentation produced for the sessions of the Governing Council;

(b) To continue to issue in all official languages and circulate to all Governments, on an annual basis, his annual report and his annual state-of-the-environment report and, on a biennial basis, the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment, but not as official documents of the Governing Council;

(c) To submit to the Council, at each regular session, a brief executive summary of the relevant annual reports and the state-of-the-environment reports, highlighting the policy issues involved and the proposed suggested action by the Council;

(d) To discontinue forthwith the so-called "summary" documents for each agenda item;

(e) To discontinue, as far as possible, the practice of reissuing documents originating from other United Nations bodies but of relevance to the Governing Council and, instead, to issue only short notes indicating the subject-matter and official symbols of the documents in question, making it clear that those documents will not be circulated by the secretariat;

(f) To continue to issue a comprehensive annotated provisional agenda along the lines of the one distributed at the sixteenth session of the Council; 5/

(g) To continue to put a short summary on the cover page of each document;

(h) To include in each substantive document a brief section highlighting elements that could be included in a decision on the subject concerned;

2. Requests its Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue to submit, as early as possible to the Council at each regular session, whatever draft decisions the Committee deems necessary, it being clearly understood that submission of such draft decisions by the Committee does not imply the agreement or endorsement of those decisions by any single Government or group of Governments;

3. Requests the Executive Director to investigate the possibility of making official documents of the Governing Council available via electronic data networks, provided that each and every State Member of the United Nations or member of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency has access to such facilities;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to examine ways and means of helping Governments, particularly those of developing countries, to make use of such facilities;

5. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to accelerate the development of electronic mailing systems for public information uses.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

5/ UNEP/GC.16/Add.1.

16/6. Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on international and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, in which the United Nations Environment Programme was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/184 of 11 December 1987 on international cooperation in the field of the environment, particularly its paragraph 18, in which the General Assembly requested that the essential catalytic and coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme be further developed,

Further recalling its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 on strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also the introductory report of the Executive Director to the Council at its present session and the addenda thereto, including his recommendations to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, in which it was decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Considering that an independent external evaluation of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme could identify new elements to reinforce the capacity of the Programme and its management to respond to its future responsibilities,

1. Asserts that a better substantive knowledge of the present capacities and management structure of the United Nations Environment Programme can help in planning adequate responses to the challenges ahead, including those resulting from the conclusions to be reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. Decides to invite the Executive Director to engage, after tender and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, an internationally recognized consultancy firm to assess the management and organization of the United Nations Environment Programme and to make the results available to Governments before 1 February 1992;

3. Also decides that, in the light of the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Executive Director should commission a second-phase study, which would advise on the future management and organization of the United Nations Environment Programme, and submit that study to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session;

4. Decides further that the terms of reference for the first-phase study should include, inter alia, the following elements:

(a) An assessment of the present functioning and capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme, based on a comprehensive analysis of its internal management and organization, including, inter alia, the areas of financial and administrative efficiency, staffing, personnel structure, decision-making, and infrastructure, bearing in mind the legislative mandates contained in relevant decisions of the Governing Council, relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and comments made by delegations at the present session of the Governing Council;

(b) The need for the United Nations Environment Programme to maintain or, where appropriate, enhance flexibility and efficiency in its operations in the light of the conclusions drawn under the above analysis, changing demands on the Programme, the need to ensure sound coordination among both programme and administrative support units, the need to improve further the ability of the Programme to fulfil its catalytic and coordinating role within the United Nations system, and the need to improve communications with United Nations organizations, with Governments and other international organizations;

(c) The importance of the consultancy firm consulting all relevant documents and staff members throughout the study, avoiding, however, unnecessary diversion of staff members from their regular duties;

5. Notes that Governments will have views on the elements to be included in the terms of reference for the second-phase study, in the light of, inter alia, the conclusions of the first phase and decides that these views will be discussed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/7. Volunteers for the environment

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind that the responsiveness of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development will be reviewed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a "Green Brigade", 6/

Recognizing that there is a broadly based desire among individuals of all ages in countries in all parts of the globe to take a more active part in environmental activities at the local and national level in their own countries through community organizations, and that individuals and organizations are increasingly expressing interest in exchanging information

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6/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2, paras. 26-33.

and experiences with similar groups in other countries, and seeking assistance and guidance from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in developing suitable environmental action programmes,

1. Requests the Executive Director, as appropriate and within available resources, to provide information services, data, publications and reports, and technical advice, as requested, to assist non-governmental organizations and community organizations to participate in environmental activities at the local and national level in their own countries;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to consult with representatives of relevant and competent national and international non-governmental organizations and explore further the modalities of cooperation with such organizations and to report on the subject to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/8. World environment academy

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on a world environment academy, 7/

Realizes that the establishment of a world environment academy should be considered within the context of the discussion on legal and institutional issues that is taking place in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and requests the Executive Director to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee and to report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/9. United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.II/1 of 3 August 1990, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit a report on, inter alia, the establishment of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance,

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7/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2.

Recalling also its decision 15/10 of 25 May 1989, particularly the operative part by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to assess, as a result of the consultations with Governments and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and competent regional organizations, the advisability of establishing such a centre and the financial implications, if any,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, establishing the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 concerning the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting with concern that environmental emergencies have continued to have a devastating effect on human life and the environment,

Convinced that cooperation among Governments and United Nations bodies and other competent regional organizations is vital in facing the challenges posed by environmental emergencies,

Having taken note of the 1989 report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session 8/ and, in particular, paragraph 23, in which the Committee indicates the importance it attaches to the full participation of the United Nations system in the assessment of the proposed centre,

Taking into account the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination contained in paragraph 12 of its 1990 report to the Governing Council at its sixteenth session, 9/

Noting that environmental emergencies were the subject of discussion at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, during which the Assembly also approved its resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in which it, inter alia, recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation in monitoring, assessing and anticipating environmental threats,

Noting also that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is considering, inter alia, appropriate responses to industrial accidents,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on a proposed United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance; 10/

2. Welcomes the participation of the United Nations agencies in the assessment of the capacity of the United Nations to deal with environmental emergencies;

8/ UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1.

9/ UNEP/GC.16/12.

10/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.2, paras. 11-25.

3. Notes that the analysis of the responses received to date indicates the need to improve the capacity of the United Nations to respond efficiently to environmental emergencies;

4. Endorses the Executive Director's proposal to proceed with the development, on an experimental basis, of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance, acting in cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies and focusing on assessment of and responses to man-made environmental emergencies. This mechanism will act upon the request of the Government concerned and maintain rosters of experts and a list of appropriate equipment to be used in such emergencies, ensuring that this does not duplicate the existing activities and responsibilities under existing international treaties and of other United Nations bodies in these fields and maintaining proper liaison with them;

5. Decides to establish the above-mentioned mechanism on an experimental basis at the beginning of 1992 for a period of eighteen months, with the appropriation proposed by the Executive Director to cover up to four Professional staff members and a senior consultant as the necessary support staff;

6. Requests Governments to support the experimental mechanism by providing any necessary complementary financial and material resources;

7. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, for its consideration in the context of the preparatory process for the Conference;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to undertake, in consultation with other members of the United Nations system, an evaluation of the activities of the body and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/10. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990 on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Welcoming the efforts made by the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl,

Welcoming also the appointment of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as coordinator of activities related to Chernobyl,

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl, which has had national and international consequences of unprecedented scale,

Noting with gratitude the contribution made by a number of States Members of the United Nations to the development of cooperation to minimize the consequences of the accident and the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population, particularly children,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, in the study of global environmental problems of the sort arising out of the disaster at Chernobyl,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the coordinator of the Chernobyl programmes of the United Nations and taking into account the work carried out by relevant international organizations, to consider the possibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the practical implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/190;

2. Exhorts the States Members of the United Nations to participate in any activities of United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, which may address the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/11. Military conflicts and the environment

A. The environmental consequences of the armed conflict in the Gulf area

The Governing Council,

Expressing its concern about the environmental damage that occurred during the armed conflict in the Gulf area, which resulted in the pollution of the waters of the area by oil, air pollution from burning oil wells and other environmental damage to the surrounding areas,

Further concerned that the environmental damage has spread and is spreading to other regions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for sending an expert mission to the area to make the preliminary impact assessment of the environmental situation,

Expressing its satisfaction at the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the other

international agencies and at the participation of the international community in the response to the marine and air pollution in the Gulf region,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the environmental consequences of the armed conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, 11/

Noting with concern the magnitude of the environmental problem, the solution of which requires concerted efforts by the international community,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To increase his efforts to enhance further cooperation among and promote greater involvement of the United Nations agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations and Governments willing and able to provide the expertise and resources needed to deal with the environmental impacts in the affected and threatened regions;

(b) To revitalize further the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and to strengthen its secretariat and its marine emergency mutual aid centre, in order to contribute to the solution of the regional environmental problems resulting from the armed conflict;

(c) To assist other regional organizations concerned in this exercise without prejudice to the funding or other resources allocated by the United Nations Environment Programme and other agencies for work in this field;

(d) To submit to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session an updated version of the report called for in paragraph 2 of its decision 16/17 of 31 May 1991 on developments with respect to the environmental situation and the extent of the work accomplished, as well as a reassessment of the environmental situation in the affected and threatened regions.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. Environmental effects of warfare

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the serious effects on the environment caused by modern warfare,

Aware of the general prohibition on employing methods or means of warfare that are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread long-term and severe damage to the natural environment, laid down in the 1977 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts 12/ and of the

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11/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1.

12/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, 13/

Also aware of the appeal of the General Assembly adopted by consensus at its forty-fifth session 14/ to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so, to consider becoming parties also to the additional protocols at the earliest possible date,

1. Appeals to Governments in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against any other State;

2. Recommends that Governments consider identifying weapons, hostile devices and ways of using such techniques that would cause particularly serious effects on the environment and consider efforts in appropriate forums to strengthen international law prohibiting such weapons, hostile devices and ways of using such techniques.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/12. Effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/9 B of 18 June 1987 and 15/9 of 25 May 1989,

Recalling also the various resolutions condemning chemical warfare adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 2162 B (XXI) of 5 December 1966, resolution 2603 A (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, and resolution 44/115 B of 15 December 1989,

Having reviewed the report of the Executive Director on the effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment, 15/

Considering that chemical warfare not only represents a most serious threat to human health and life but also has an anti-environmental dimension, which could attain the level of mass or even total destruction of ecosystems,

1. Condemns unequivocally chemical warfare;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director on the effects of chemical weapons on human health and the environment;

13/ General Assembly resolution 31/72 of 10 December 1976, annex.

14/ General Assembly resolution 45/38 of 28 November 1990.

15/ UNEP/GC.16/6.

3. Requests the Executive Director to make his report available to the Conference on Disarmament.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/13. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/8 of 25 May 1989 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Taking note with appreciation of the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, 16/ several parts of which confirmed the deterioration of the environmental situation in those territories,

Expressing its concern over the impact of the military rule on the management of the environment and its natural resources in a way that hinders the pursuit of environmentally sound management,

Recalling also the relevant decisions and resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

1. Expresses once again its concern that the Israeli occupying authorities are persisting in their practices, which include confiscation of land and water resources, destruction of houses and forcible eviction and expulsion of the Arab population, the establishment of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the felling of trees over large areas, and the use of health-impairing gases with hazardous environmental impacts for the Palestinian and other Arab populations, as well as for agricultural production and the socio-economic conditions in those territories;

2. Expresses its regret that Israel did not provide the information requested, which meant that a complete database on the occupied Arab territories could not be prepared;

3. Stresses the need for Israel, as occupying Power, to respond to the Council's decisions to enable the database on the occupied territories to be completed in order to conserve the natural resources, halt environmental deterioration and reinforce the quality of life in those territories;

4. Stresses the need for Israel to bear its responsibility as the occupying Power by taking the necesssary measures to conserve the natural resources, halt environmental deterioration, protect the human environment and

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16/ UNEP/GC.16/5.

ensure the well-being of the citizens in the occupied territories, in accordance with the Charter and principles of the United Nations;

5. Requests the Executive Director, pending the achievement by the United Nations of a political solution to the question of the occupied territories, which, it is hoped, will occur in the near future, to take the actions and measures capable of halting environmental deterioration in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and to provide the necessary assistance for protecting the natural resources in the area and for securing harmonious living conditions for the entire population;

6. Urges the international community to provide various forms of support and assistance for the implementation of this decision;

7. Requests the Executive Director to take all necessary measures to complete the database of information about the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and to follow up the implementation of the present decision and report on the progress made to the Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/14. Regional and subregional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 15/16 and 15/17 of 25 May 1989,

Taking into consideration the decisions of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Port of Spain on 22 and 23 October 1990, 17/

Recognizing the need to intensify and coordinate regional and subregional cooperation for the conservation and protection of the environment, within the framework of regional development plans,

Welcoming the approval of the Governments of the region of the Regional Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean 18/ and their expressed commitment to the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development adopted at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Mexico City from 4 to 7 March 1991,

Recognizing the interest of the Governments of the region in strengthening and implementing the regional programmes identified in annex I of the final report of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment,

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17/ UNEP/LAC-IG.VII/4, annex I.

18/ Ibid., annex II.

1. Endorses the decisions of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To support the plans and programmes being implemented in the region in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean following the guidelines set out in the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development;

(b) To provide for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in the supplementary and core programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(c) To accord priority in the allocation of resources to the implementation of the eight regional programmes that form the basis of the Regional Action Plan and the initiation of the four new basic regional programmes elaborated in annex I of the final report of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting;

(d) To provide support for ongoing consultations and coordination among the Governments of the region on implementation of the Action Plan;

(e) To provide support to the Governments of the region in the preparation and implementation of national environment plans and strategies;

(f) To give effect to the expressed wish of the Governments of the region to forge partnership between and among the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility, to implement the proposals of the Regional Action Plan;

(g) To maintain and increase support for the programme and activities being carried out within the framework of the action plans for the South-East Pacific and the Wider Caribbean regions and to encourage participating States to fulfil their pledges and commitments to the funds established for this purpose.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/15. State-of-the-environment reports

A. The 1990 state-of-the-environment report, "Children and the environment"

The Governing Council,

Noting with appreciation the 1990 report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, 19/

19/ UNEP/GC.16/8.

Also noting with appreciation the cooperation of the United Nations Children's Fund in the preparation of the report,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, 20/

Recalling the various articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, 21/ and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, in New York on 30 September 1990, 22/

1. Emphasizes that inter-generational equity implies that:

(a) Each generation is required to conserve and utilize the natural resource base in an environmentally sustainable manner and pay due attention to the conservation of its cultural inheritance, so that it does not restrict the options of future generations;

(b) Each generation is required to maintain and improve the quality of the planet so that it is passed on in better condition than it was received;

(c) Each generation should provide its members with equitable access to the benign legacy of past generations;

2. Also emphasizes that poverty, underdevelopment, inadequate health and sanitation services, and environmental degradation are the main causes of mortality, morbidity and stunted growth and development of children;

3. Stresses the fact that children have the greatest stake in the preservation of the environment and its judicious management for sustainable development as their survival and development depend on it;

4. Requests the Executive Director to accord high priority within the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities directly related to the achievement of relevant goals and strategies enunciated in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s. In particular, priority should be given to:

(a) Formal and informal environmental education of children;

(b) Programmes to enhance the environmental awareness of children;

20/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

21/ General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, annex.

22/ A/45/625, annex.

(c) Programmes to enhance the environmental awareness and the active participation of women in environmental protection measures for their health and well-being and for that of their children;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to include in his 1992 annual report paragraphs regarding the implementation of the action required by paragraph 4 of the present decision.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. The 1991 state-of-the-environment report, "The state of the world environment 1991"

Having considered the 1991 report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment, 23/

1. Takes note of the 1991 report of the Executive Director on the state of the world environment;

2. Calls to the attention of all Governments the salient features and findings of the report;

3. Requests the Executive Director within the environment programme:

(a) To continue to accord high priority to the negotiation of a convention on biological diversity;

(b) To accelerate activities related to the environmentally sound management of shared water resources;

(c) To continue to develop and strengthen measures to facilitate improved protection and sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources and to address more effectively the serious growing problem of land-based sources of marine pollution.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

C. The 1992 and 1993 state-of-the-environment reports

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 13/9 D of 24 May 1985, in which it decided, inter alia, that the state-of-the-environment reports should alternate in successive years between a report on economic and social aspects of the environment and a report on environmental data and assessment,

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23/ UNEP/GC.16/9.

Recalling also its decision 15/13 A of 23 May 1989, in which it requested the Executive Director to prepare, inter alia, a comprehensive report on the state of the environment for submission to the Council at its seventeenth regular session, in 1993, and a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972 for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report on the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report ("Twenty years after Stockholm"); 24/

2. Requests the Executive Director to expedite the preparations for the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report covering the twenty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, for it to be available at the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and to be available for the Council at its seventeenth regular session in 1993;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare the 1992 state-of-the-environment report on the issue of poverty and environment.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/16. Emerging environmental issues

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/13 B of 23 May 1989,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues; 25/

2. Requests the Executive Director to bring to the attention of all Governments the emerging issues included in his reports, ensuring that environmental issues that have already emerged during the past few years are not lost sight of;

3. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to review the issue of new technologies, with particular reference to their environmental impacts;

(b) To include in his 1993 report on emerging environmental issues a detailed examination of the following emerging issues: re-use of waste water; volatile organic compounds in air; and tropospheric ozone; and ensure that these studies include specific recommendations on appropriate measures for

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24/ UNEP/GC.16/7.

25/ UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.1.

ameliorating problems identified and that the studies relating to re-use of waste water embrace all geographical regions of the world;

(c) To include in his 1993 report on emerging environmental issues a brief update of those issues dealt with in his 1991 report.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/17. Hazardous environmental events

The Governing Council,

Recalling section II of its decision 11/1 of 24 May 1983,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on the Alaskan oil spill, 26/

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the environmental implications of the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, 27/

1. Requests the Executive Director to bring to the attention of all Governments the events described in the above-mentioned reports;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare, as soon as possible, a full scientific report on the environmental effects of the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, to make it available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and to update the report on a regular basis;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to keep under review the different environmental events, including the long-term impacts of the Alaskan oil spill and major disasters in other geographical regions of the world, with special reference to Africa and its subregions, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/18. Enhancing United Nations coordination of environmental activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established the United Nations Environment Programme to provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes

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26/ UNEP/GC.16/9/Add.2.

27/ UNEP/GC.16/4/Add.1.

within the United Nations system and also established an Environment Coordination Board to provide for the most efficient coordination of United Nations environmental activities,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, which merged the Environment Coordination Board with the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and further decided, inter alia, to review and examine the role of the United Nations system in dealing with the environment and possible ways of improving it,

Noting the establishment and effective performance of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Environment Programme, in serving as a means of coordinating the environmentally related activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and related efforts, especially in the preparation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme,

Noting also the growing need for even more effective coordination, as well as direction, of the ever-increasing variety and intensity of environmentally related activities throughout the United Nations system, as well as in the larger international context in which the United Nations system operates,

1. Recognizes that more effective arrangements must be provided to ensure the effective and comprehensive coordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system to enable it to meet the new and expanding requirements placed upon it by the ever-increasing urgency and complexity of international and related environmental challenges facing the international community;

2. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development give priority consideration to ways and means of bringing about more effective arrangements for comprehensive coordination and direction of environmental activities in the United Nations system, at the inter-agency level, as well as at the intergovernmental level, bearing in mind the experience gained from the institutional arrangements contained in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), taking into account, as appropriate, any other relevant considerations regarding United Nations system-wide or related international coordination.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/19. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to report to the Council on an annual basis,

Noting the increasing importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on matters relating to the environment,

Having considered the 1989 and 1990 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council regarding United Nations system-wide coordination in the field of the environment, 28/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee on Coordination for its 1989 and 1990 reports;

2. Welcomes the support of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for national efforts to integrate environmental considerations into overall and sectoral development policies and for the inter-agency steering committee on integration of environmental considerations into development planning;

3. Also welcomes the fact that the Administrative Committee on Coordination is encouraging its member bodies to undertake activities to analyse issues of a cross-cutting nature in the course of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; 29/

4. Supports the views expressed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference should give greater attention to the issue of the cumulative interaction between poverty, health and population, on the one hand, and environmental degradation, on the other; 29/

5. Further welcomes the attention paid by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the issues of climate change, biological diversity, conservation and development of forests, as well as strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

28/ UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 and UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1.

29/ UNEP/GC.16/12 and Corr.1, para. 31.

16/20. Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227

The Governing Council

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227, 30/ which concerns the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development;

2. Transmits the progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/21. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue and increase cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), inter alia, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission of Human Settlements, 31/

Recalling also its decision 15/18 of 25 May 1989 on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

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30/ A/46/138-E/1991/52, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/14).

31/ See UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18.

Noting with satisfaction the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 32/

Welcomes the increasing cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the four established areas and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations, and requests the Executive Director of the Programme to continue and intensify this cooperation.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/22. Desertification

A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/147 of 17 December 1982 and 37/218 of 20 December 1982, 38/160 of 9 December 1983, 39/168 A of 17 December 1984, 40/198 A of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 A of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 9/22 A and B of 26 May 1981, section VII of its decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982, section VII of its decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, and its decisions 12/10 of 28 May 1984, 14/15 A of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 33/

Having also considered those parts of the 1989 and 1990 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination dealing with the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 34/

Reaffirming its conviction that the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification is an appropriate instrument to assist Governments in developing national programmes for arresting the process of desertification,

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32/ UNEP/GC.16/11.

33/ UNEP/GC.16/16.

34/ UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1, paras. 29-31, and UNEP/GC.16/12, paras. 47-50.

Reaffirming also its conviction that combating desertification at the national level:

(a) Should involve the traditional systems used by local people to promote popular participation in programmes of desertification control;

(b) Requires the establishment of effective institutional machinery for integrating desertification control programmes into overall national development plans and priorities,

Taking note of the report of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control on the work of its seventh session 35/ and, in particular, paragraph 22 (xii), which states that participants expressed a strong desire for the Consultative Group to contribute to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that it was suggested that, for this purpose, the eighth session of the Consultative Group, in 1991, would be of a special character and attract a large number of countries and organizations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to submit his report, on behalf of the Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

3. Encourages the ongoing efforts to compile a global assessment of desertification and to carry out mapping of thematic indicators of desertification at the global, regional and national levels;

4. Takes note of the action taken by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification to mobilize technical resources to assist States members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference to develop and implement national programmes to combat desertification and to encourage reporting on activities of member organizations relevant to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. Invites donor Governments, intergovernmental bodies, including aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of degraded land resources and to take into account the promotion of long-term ecological and social rehabilitation programmes in areas prone to desertification;

6. Emphasizes the importance of further steps to improve international coordination between agencies within or outside the United Nations system involved in combating desertification;

35/ DESCON 7-7.

7. Requests the Executive Director to assist, within available financial resources, countries prone to desertification, at their request, in developing programmes for combating desertification within their development plans;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to contribute fully to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on his efforts to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference through, inter alia, the drafting of a consolidated report to be made available to the Committee at its fourth session and giving a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, since the Committee has decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that session;

9. Authorizes the Executive Director to convene the eighth session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control as a session of a special character devoted to a review of the draft consolidated report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification before the report is made available to the Preparatory Committee and to invite all interested Governments, donor agencies and intergovernmental agencies to that session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 42/189 C of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 A of 23 May 1985, 14/15 D of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, 36/

1. Recommends that, pending action by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the mandate of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control should be changed to concentrate on information exchange and coordination, reviewing the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and exchanging information on scientific research in this field, national programmes and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and advising on further action against desertification;

36/ UNEP/GC.16/16, sect. III.

2. Invites the international community to pledge voluntary contributions to local, national and regional mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. Further invites the international community to create the necessary economic and financial conditions that would enable countries prone to desertification to appropriate part of their resources to combat desertification;

4. Requests the Executive Director to expedite the studies requested by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director, on the financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and other aspects of supporting it.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 B of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 B of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 B of 23 May 1985, 14/15 B of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, in particular, the section on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, 37/

1. Commends the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on the steps it has taken, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, in particular in the areas of natural resources management and sustainable development;

2. Requests the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to strengthen its actions at the national level to assist Governments in the region in developing national plans of action to combat desertification and in incorporating them into national plans for sustainable development, developing or strengthening relevant institutions, implementing replicable integrated projects and ensuring that not only the symptoms but also the causes of desertification are addressed, using available financial resources effectively

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37/ Ibid., sect. IV.

by avoiding duplication of activities and coordinating the anti-desertification activities undertaken by the international community in the region;

3. Urges the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to contribute fully to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, to the comprehensive report on desertification for the Conference;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue support to the Office as a joint venture with the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Invites the Executive Director and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to the countries served by the Office in combating desertification.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

D. External evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, 38/

2. Underlines the need for further refinement of the definition of the concept of desertification, taking into account recent findings about the influence of climate fluctuations and about the resilience of soils;

3. Requests the Executive Director to forward the approved findings and recommendations of the evaluation report along with the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third substantive session, in August 1991;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to take into account, when revising the existing recommendations of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the approved findings and recommendations of the evaluation report and of the present decision and to include the revised recommendations in the Council's report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the status of desertification and implementation of the Plan of Action.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

38/ UNEP/GC.16/16/Add.1.

E. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A

The Governing Council

1. Requests the Executive Director to expedite the comprehensive implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Executive Director, to prepare, inter alia, a report containing financial and technical expert studies on ways and means to combat desertification effectively, and a general evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, together with contributions from the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, for presentation to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session, and giving a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, since the Committee has decided to have a full discussion of the issue of desertification at that time;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to undertake the appropriate measures, within available resources, to strengthen the Desertification Programme Activity Centre to enable it to discharge effectively and efficiently its responsibilities.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/23. Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991

The Governing Council

I. PROGRAMME BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

1. Commends the organizations of the United Nations system for their contributions to the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 39/ and calls upon them to cooperate fully with the Executive Director in the implementation of this programme;

2. Approves the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, as set out in the report of the Executive Director 39/ with the following amendments, the final apportionments by subprogramme and programme element being annexed to the present decision:

(a) Subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment) is deleted and activities 1 and 4 transferred to subprogramme 2 (Water). Activities 2 and 3 of subprogramme 9 should not be implemented;

39/ UNEP/GC.16/15.

(b) Under subprogramme 5 (Lithosphere), the allocation for activity 1 is reduced to 100,000 dollars (C) and 50,000 dollars (S);

(c) Under subprogramme 12 (Environmental awareness) activity 7 of programme element 12.1 (Environmental education and training) is deleted;

(d) Under subprogramme 3 (Terrestrial ecosystems) the allocation for programme element 3.2 (Arid lands and desertification) is increased by 600,000 dollars (C) and 230,000 dollars (S);

(e) Under subprogramme 4 (Oceans), the allocation for programme element 4.1 (Regional marine environments, including combating degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources) is increased by 350,000 dollars (C) and 130,000 dollars (S);

(f) Under subprogramme 11 (Environmental management measures), the allocation for programme element 11.1 (Environmental aspects of development planning and cooperation) is increased by 510,000 dollars (C) and 190,000 dollars (S);

(g) Subprogrammes 10 (Environmental assessment), 11 (Environmental management measures), 12 (Environmental awareness) and 13 (Technical and regional cooperation) become, respectively, subprogrammes 9, 10, 11 and 12;

II. SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Recalling section VI, paragraph 3, of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, in which it approved an appropriation of 35 million dollars as a supplementary appropriation for Fund programme activities as presented in the annex to that decision,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director 40/ on the status of implementation of the supplementary programme approved by the Council in its decision 15/1;

2. Approves the adjustments to the supplementary programme proposed by the Executive Director in his report 41/ with the following amendments:

(a) The title of activity 1 becomes "Studies on the implications of climate changes and rising sealevel in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change";

(b) Under activity 1, the phrase "including the special needs of small island countries" is added after the words "climate change" at the end of the last subparagraph;

40/ UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and Corr.1.

41/ Ibid., annex II.

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to implement the adjusted programme during the remaining part of 1991 as and when resources become available, giving priority to:

(a) Preparation of a draft convention on biological diversity;

(b) Studies on the implications of climate changes and sea-level rise in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) Support to the participation of developing countries in technical and intergovernmental meetings convened by the United Nations Environment Programme.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

ANNEX

Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993: apportionments by subprogramme and programme element

Subprogramme/programme element	Programme amount	Percentage	Additional programme amount	Total amount (Thousands of United States dollars)	Percentage
1. ATMOSPHERE	7 000	4.7	2 000	9 000	5.0
2. WATER	8 840	5.9	2 700	11 540	6.4
3. TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	20 550	13.7	4 180	24 730	13.7
3.1 Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
3.2 Arid lands and desertification	8 900	5.9	1 930	10 830	6.0
3.3 Forests and other ecosystems	3 150	2.1	850	4 000	2.2
3.4 Biological diversity	5 200	3.5	700	5 900	3.3
3.5 Microbial resources and related biotechnologies	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
4. OCEANS	11 950	8.0	2 530	14 480	8.0
5. LITHOSPHERE	500	0.3	150	650	0.4
6. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	3 350	2.2	650	4 000	2.2
6.1 Environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management	2 100	1.4	400	2 500	1.4
6.2 Community preparedness for natural and man-made environmental disasters	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7. HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
7.1 Hazards of pollution	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7.2 Environmental aspects of human health	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8. ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION	10 750	7.2	2 150	12 900	7.2
8.1 Energy and environment	1 700	1.1	300	2 000	1.1
8.2 Industry and environment	6 600	4.4	1 300	7 900	4.4
8.3 Transportation and environment	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8.4 Tourism and environment	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
8.5 Working environment	400	0.3	100	500	0.3
9. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	28 050	18.7	5 500	33 550	18.6
9.1 Earthwatch coordination	750	0.5	250	1 000	0.6
9.2 INFOTERRA	3 300	2.2	700	4 000	2.2
9.3 International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	8 300	5.5	1 700	10 000	5.6
9.4 Global Resources Information Database (GRID)	5 800	3.9	1 150	6 950	3.9
9.5 Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS)	7 900	5.3	1 700	9 600	5.3
9.6 State of the environment	2 000	1.3	-	2 000	1.1
10. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES	17 460	11.6	2 940	20 400	11.3
10.1 Environmental aspects of development planning and cooperation	4 660	3.1	1 040	5 700	3.2
10.2 Environmental law and institutions	12 800	8.5	1 900	14 700	8.2
11. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	19 500	13.0	2 900	22 400	12.4
11.1 Environmental education and training	7 800	5.2	1 000	8 800	4.9
11.2 Public information	11 700	7.8	1 900	13 600	7.6
12. TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION	19 550	13.0	3 800	23 350	13.0
TOTAL	150 000	100.0	30 000	180 000	100.0

16/24. Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session, as contained in the Committee's report on the work of that session, 42/

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, particularly on the recommendation to delete subprogramme 9, on peace, security and the environment, from programme 16 of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 43/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which states the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 14/13 of 19 June 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, by which the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond was adopted, and calling attention to chapter III, section D, of the Perspective, on security and environment, paragraph 86 of which defines the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on issues of disarmament and security,

Recommends to the General Assembly that it should:

(a) Maintain the high priority assigned by the Council to the preparation of multi-disciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

(b) Keep the title of subprogramme 13 as "Technical and regional cooperation";

(c) Maintain the text of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) in the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

42/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/45/16).

43/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

16/25. Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme through the establishment of programme activity centres, 44/

Recalling section II, part 2, paragraph 1, of its decision 13/1 of 23 May 1985, in which it welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director in establishing a two-year pilot phase of the Global Resource Information Database,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990, in which it requested the Executive Director to strengthen the activities of the Industry and Environment Office related to the development of clean technologies in the field of hazardous wastes,

Noting with satisfaction that the Industry and Environment Office has, for a number of years, played an important role to promote environmentally sound industrial development, particularly through technology and information exchange, thus contributing to the implementation of decisions 15/37, on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology, and 15/39, on industrial accidents, of 25 May 1989,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/21 of 31 May 1982, in which the Council endorsed the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and of subsequent decisions in the field of environmental law,

Recognizing that, in view of rapidly changing perceptions and emerging environmental needs, the effective implementation of the Global Resource Information Database, industry and law subprogrammes calls for a more autonomous, sharply focused and flexible approach,

1. Decides to give the Global Resource Information Database, the Industry and Environment Office and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit a greater degree of autonomy in fulfilling their functions by establishing them as programme activity centres within the Office of the Environment Programme, with the priorities and long-term goals set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. Requests the Executive Director to accelerate the development of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and its network to help promote a global exchange of environmentally sound technologies;

3. Calls upon Governments and international organizations concerned to cooperate and support the development and application of international environmental law, assistance to developing countries through the provision of

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44/ UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.1 and Corr.1.

technical assistance to develop national environmental legislation, institution building, and support of education and information programmes regarding environmental law;

4. Calls upon the United Nations organizations and bodies and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations active in the field of environmental law, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of its programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report on the progress of work under the new programme activity centres to the Council at its seventeenth regular session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

ANNEX

Priorities and long-term goals of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID), Industry and Environment, and Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centres

A. Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Programme Activity Centre

1. Environmental management support

(a) Priority: producing packages of options that are feasible for use by policy makers in taking their decisions in respect of resource use and sustainable management of the environment within the context of development plans; providing an international forum for data collectors and information users to match data to needs;

(b) Long-term goal: a fully integrated and functioning United Nations-based core GRID system of cooperating agency and national centres, openly exchanging environmental data and information and providing the necessary information management support to bridge the gap between the generation and the use of environmental data.

2. Environmental data management

(a) Priority: acquisition, verification and dissemination of geo-referenced environmental datasets, as well as the development of methodologies for handling global and regional data;

(b) Long-term goal: all major existing global and regional environmental databases to be effectively available through the Global Resource Information Database network in appropriate forms to a wide range of users, from students to scientists to politicians.

3. Agency support

(a) Priority: providing access to geographic information systems and expertise for supporting environmental assessments and practical environmental problem-solving at all levels;

(b) Long-term goal: all United Nations specialized agencies and most major intergovernmental organizations having access to GRID data and technology for the description, understanding and solution of environment-related problems.

4. Technology transfer

(a) Priority: formal geographic information system and remote-sensing training programmes in on-the-job case-study applications and in conjunction with technical assistance programmes to strengthen national capabilities of developing countries in particular;

(b) Long-term goal: providing access to GRID data technology to all countries in the world and providing most with functioning GRID-compatible monitoring and assessment centres for national environmental assessment and management.

B. Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre

1. Promotion of the environmentally sound management of selected industrial sectors

(a) Priority: to maintain a consultative process with industry and prepare and disseminate technical guidelines in a number of industrial sectors, including tourism, transportation and the working group environment;

(b) Long-term goal: to review the environmental implications of all industry sectors and the impact of improved technologies on the enhancement of the state of the environment, particularly with respect to air and water pollution.

2. Promotion of the cleaner production network

(a) Priority: to establish and operate a network of industries and organizations dedicated to "cleaner production", through industrial sectoral working groups, a newsletter and a computerized exchange system;

(b) Long-term goal: to strengthen national capabilities for managing industrial development to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

3. Prevention of industrial accidents

(a) Priority: development of the awareness and preparedness for emergencies at the local level (APELL) programme to prevent industrial accidents and reduce their impact on the environment;

(b) Long-term goal: improved emergency response and prevention of industrial accidents.

4. Technical support to developing countries

(a) Priority: operation of a query-response service, establishment of database on industry and environment issues, training workshops on environmentally sound technologies (low-waste and no waste) and on hazardous wastes management;

(b) Long-term goal: to strengthen national policies and capabilities for managing industrial development in an environmentally sound way.

C. Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre

1. Promotion and implementation of global legal environmental instruments

(a) Priority: to assist countries with the development, adoption and implementation of international legal instruments, including conventions and protocols, as well as principles and guidelines, with regard to the control or prevention of specific environmental problems;

(b) Long-term goal: a coherent body of international law in the environmental field.

2. Formulation and implementation of national environmental legislation and establishment or support of appropriate institutions

(a) Priority: to assist developing countries, upon request, through training, the provision of technical assistance for attending meetings, enacting national environmental legislation and setting up environmental machineries. This includes assessment of problems preventing developing countries from becoming parties to or implementing environmental legislation;

(b) Long-term goal: national environmental laws adopted and institutions established in developing countries.

3. Information exchange

(a) Priority: to collect and disseminate information on national environmental legislation and maintain a register of international treaties and other agreements in the field of the environment; and to strengthen and coordinate the use of existing information sources and databases;

(b) Long-term goal: an operational comprehensive database on national and international environmental law.

16/26. Oceans and coastal areas

A. Marine pollution from land-based sources

The Governing Council,

Taking note of paragraphs 4 and 6 of decision 1/20 of 31 August 1990 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 45/ by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to consider making an evaluation of proposals for the further development of scientific, technical and financial cooperation for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and to consider undertaking an evaluation of the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution, 46/

Taking note also of paragraph 5 of Preparatory Committee decision 2/18, in which the Committee notes with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme is preparing a proposal on strategy options and actions to reduce the effects of land-based sources of pollution, including, inter alia, sewage-related discharges and other activities threatening marine and coastal environment,

Taking note further of the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution, held at Halifax, Canada, from 6 to 10 May 1991,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 47/ for the protection of the marine environment,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the preparation of elements for draft strategy options and actions to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, other United Nations organizations and taking fully into account the experience gained by the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and by other regional cooperative programmes on efforts to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas as well as the outcome of the Halifax meeting;

45/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/45/46), annex I.

46/ See Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No. 7 (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

47/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

2. Decides to invite the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session to give policy guidance to a meeting of government-designated experts to be convened to formulate a draft strategy, including a targeted and costed programme of action for reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to convene, subject to the availability of resources, such a meeting and to initiate preparations without delay;

4. Further authorizes the Executive Director to complete a targeted and costed action programme for the Mediterranean as an input to the strategy and as an example for the preparation of an international study, in view of the comprehensive data which already exist for that area and the very limited time available;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the meeting of government-designated experts, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;

6. Endorses the co-sponsorship of the intergovernmental panel on global investigation of pollution in the marine environment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas

The Governing Council,

Having reviewed the note of the Executive Director transmitting the draft highlights of a report on strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas, commissioned in a joint effort by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 48/

1. Welcomes the continuing cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the preparation of strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas;

2. Approves the completion of the strategy document by the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, as an important input to the planning of the United

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48/ UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.5.

Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and other parts of the United Nations system;

3. Requests the Executive Director to arrange for the completed document to be submitted to the Governing Council at its next regular session and the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session, through the appropriate channel.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

C. Expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific

The Governing Council,

Aware that the countries of the South-East Pacific - Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru - have, since 1981, been implementing the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and coordinated by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific,

Also aware that the Action Plan has been a beneficial experience for the region that should be broadened and shared in other areas with similar environmental conditions,

Having in mind that one Central American Government and other Central American forums have expressed an interest in having the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific expanded and that this interest is shared by the countries participating in the Action Plan,

1. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to facilitate the expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for undertaking the necessary action to facilitate the expansion of the Action Plan.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/27. Sea-level rise

A. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas. 49/

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. Sea-level rise vulnerability assessments

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying areas, in paragraph 3 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones,

Recalling Governing Council decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change, in which the Council recommended the institution of programmes and measures of assistance that would make it possible for developing countries to better manage the impacts of global climate change,

Acknowledging that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adopted in August 1990, predicts that sea level may rise between three to ten centimetres a decade under the business-as-usual emissions scenario and that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were reduced, there would still be a continuing need to address sea-level rise,

Noting that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also recommended options for adapting to the coastal impacts of global climate change, including identification of areas potentially at risk from sea-level rise and development of comprehensive management plans to reduce future vulnerability of populations, coastal developments and ecosystems as part of coastal zone management,

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49/ A/46/156-E/1991/54, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/18).

Recalling the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference of November 1990 50/ and, in particular, paragraph 8 thereof,

Conscious of decisions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its fifth plenary session, in March 1991, to assess vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify adaptive responses, bearing in mind cost-benefit analysis in the short and long run, and identify implementation requirements in conjunction with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the intention of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to complete by April 1992 an update of its First Assessment Report, including the results of the sea-level rise vulnerability assessment project, and to present it to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992,

Noting the leading role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in implementing the Global Ocean Observing System,

1. Urges Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and international organizations, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate in the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the vulnerability to sea-level rise of developing countries, particularly small island countries, low-lying coastal States and other small islands;

2. Requests that the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme should facilitate the building by developing countries of their own capability to assess their vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify appropriate response strategies, and develop integrated coastal management plans in association with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and in accordance with the recommendations made at the Panel's fifth plenary session;

3. Recommends that Governments, taking note of the need to address the issue of vulnerability to sea-level rise, increase their support of these activities.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

50/ A/45/696/Add.1, annex III.

16/28. Cholera and microbial pollution of the coastal waters of the South-East Pacific

The Governing Council,

Considering that, in some coastal areas of the South-East Pacific, environmental conditions have become conducive to the presence, propagation and spread of pollution-related microbial diseases,

Being aware that, as a consequence of these conditions, the South-East Pacific region has recently been stricken by cholera and, despite the efforts deployed by the Governments of the region, cholera is taking on the characteristics of an endemic disease,

Considering that it is necessary to take effective measures against cholera and microbial pollution to prevent their propagation and spread to other areas and so protect human life, fisheries and other legitimate uses of the sea,

Recognizing the support that the United Nations Environment Programme has given and could continue to give to the efforts of the Governments of the region to control microbial pollution and cholera,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in coordination with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, to consider the cholera control measures taken by the South-East Pacific countries as one of the activities that must be supported and strengthened and that call for prompt and decisive action on the part of the United Nations Environment Programme in view of the direct relationship between cholera, coastal pollution and causes thereof;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to consider what support the United Nations Environment Programme could offer, within available resources, to the South-East Pacific region for sanitary control action in coastal areas through established marine pollution programmes, thus reinforcing the national cholera control efforts, and to include such support among those measures that must be adopted as a matter of urgency.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/29. Assistance to Bangladesh on environmental matters in the wake of the devastating cyclone

The Governing Council,

Deeply concerned at the colossal loss of human life and unprecedented degradation of the environment caused by the cyclone and tidal waves that struck Bangladesh on 29 April 1991,

Considering that Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries, and that its situation has been worsened by the frequent recurrence of natural disasters having devastating consequences,

Aware that the environment of the coastal areas of Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to natural calamity resulting in widespread human and material loss,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a developmental and environmental problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the magnitude of the relief and rehabilitation efforts that the Government of Bangladesh has to undertake to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims and to restore the environment,

Noting the appeal to the international community by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to come forward in aid of those affected by the disastrous cyclone,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 45/263 of 13 May 1991 on assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of the devastating cyclone,

1. Expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of Bangladesh during the tragic aftermath of the disaster;

2. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide and facilitate obtaining all possible assistance in short- and long-term measures, within available resources, for the protection of the environment in Bangladesh, including an urgent case-study by the United Nations Environment Programme on the coastal areas of Bangladesh, within the context of ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/Interim Steering Committee on Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Zone Management and of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field;

3. Appeals to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh to mitigate the suffering of the victims and to prevent further consequences of the environmental disaster.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/30. Hazardous waste

A. Environmentally sound management of hazardous waste

The Governing Council,

Noting with appreciation the shift in environmental policy in favour of the principle of precautionary action as defined in the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference 51/ and the recommendations from the international community for implementing that policy through clean production methods,

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51/ Ibid.

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990 on a comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, in paragraph 1 of which it called upon Governments and international forums to implement the precautionary approach through clean production methods in order to achieve the reduction and minimization of hazardous wastes and substances,

Aware of the adoption in January 1991 of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management within Africa of Hazardous Wastes, which contains provisions regarding the precautionary principle and clean production approach to prevent and eliminate polluting emissions and discharges,

Noting section I, paragraph 3, of decision 1/22 of 31 August 1990 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations, to consider preparing elements for an international strategy for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, 52/

Also noting resolution 8 of 22 March 1989, adopted by the Basel Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, by which the Conference called upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a technical working group to prepare draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, through the interim secretariat for the Basel Convention and in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft elements of an international strategy and an action programme, including technical guidelines, for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

2. Further requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene, in cooperation with other organizations as appropriate, an ad hoc meeting of government-designated experts to consider the draft elements and a possible international strategy and action programme;

3. Emphasizes that the international strategy and the action programme:

(a) May consider the pursuit of waste minimization as part of a broad cleaner production approach focusing on both products and processes from "the cradle to the grave", taking into account the experience gained by the cleaner

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52/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/45/46), annex I.

production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and the clean production guidelines for national action of the Bamako Convention;

(b) Should recognize the important role that has to be played by industry not only in developing new clean technologies but also in introducing good operating practices for the minimization of waste;

(c) Should be made available to Governments in order to serve as guidance for the elaboration of national strategies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

4. Urges Governments that have not yet acceded to or ratified the Basel Convention to do so as soon as possible;

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the meeting of government-designated experts to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its first meeting and to the contracting parties to the Bamako Convention at their first meeting;

6. Also requests the Executive Director, through the appropriate channels, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session, on progress made and, at its fourth session, on the outcome of the meeting of government-designated experts;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the efforts of African Governments with regard to the entry into force and implementation of the Bamako Convention.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

B. Comprehensive approach to hazardous waste: recommendations for the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.II/4 B

The Governing Council,

Noting the shift in environmental policy, particularly over the past two years, in favour of the preventive approach towards pollution control and the recommendations from the international community for its implementation by clean production methods,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990 on a comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, in which it, inter alia, appealed to Governments and international forums to implement the precautionary approach through clean production methods in order to achieve the reduction and elimination of hazardous wastes and substances,

Welcoming the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal of 22 March 1989, article 4, paragraphs 2 (a) and (e) of which set forth the

obligation to ensure that the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes is reduced to a minimum and not to allow the export of hazardous wastes to States that have prohibited all imports,

Recalling also the Lomé IV Convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States banning the export of all hazardous wastes to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States,

Welcoming the adoption, on 30 January 1991, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa which, apart from banning the import of waste to Africa, contains legally binding provisions regarding the precautionary approach and the clean production approach to prevent and eliminate polluting emissions and discharges,

Aware that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has begun work on clean production pursuant to a concept for phasing out especially harmful substances and products,

Also aware of the relevant paragraphs of the Bergen Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development in the Economic Commission for Europe region, the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development, the Asian and Pacific input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Noordwijk Declaration and the results of the regional conference for Africa, organized in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989,

Recalling resolution L.D.C.40 (13) adopted in 1990 by the contracting parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, which included a call for the precautionary approach encouraging the adoption of the clean production methods that reduce the generation of hazardous substances,

Further recognizing the importance of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the sessions of its Preparatory Committee, which will address, among other things, pollution problems and the adequacy of current international regulatory regimes and measures,

1. Appeals to Governments and appropriate international forums, taking economic costs into consideration, to consider alternative cleaner production methods, including raw material selection, product substitution and clean production technologies and processes as a means of implementing a precautionary approach in order to promote production systems that minimize or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes and optimize use of raw materials, water and energy through, for example, recycling;

2. Appeals to Governments and international and intergovernmental organizations that have not yet done so to develop national and regional environmental policies based on the preventive approach implemented through, inter alia, the application at an accelerated rate of cleaner production methods, taking into account the work of the Industry and Environment Office of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the work within the

framework of relevant international agreements in order to achieve minimization of wastes;

3. Further appeals to Governments and international and intergovernmental organizations to develop national and regional strategies based, inter alia, on:

(a) Cleaner production programmes, including environmental audits to be carried out at all stages of production, based on, inter alia, the ongoing work of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and identifying appropriate cleaner production substitutes;

(b) Accelerated work on reducing the use and emission of hazardous substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative with the ultimate aim of phasing out those uses that cannot adequately be controlled and obtaining agreed regional timetables for phasing them out;

(c) Integrated pollution prevention and control, including more comprehensive approaches to environmental management and integration of risk-reduction measures;

4. Appeals to the international community to support Governments that so request in developing and implementing the policies and strategies referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision;

5. Requests the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house, including support for the creation of national and regional focal points.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/31. List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 12/11 of 28 May 1984 and 14/32 of 18 June 1987,

Having considered the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance, 53/

1. Takes note of the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance;

53/ UNEP/GC.16/20.

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To refer the report to Governments, relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations for further study and action, as appropriate;

(b) To obtain their comments on the report and, in particular, on the recommendations contained therein;

(c) To review the use made of the list and to submit the results to the Council in 1993;

(d) To submit to the Council in 1993 proposals for a possible update of the list in the light of the outcome of the review referred to in subparagraph (c) above.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/32. Industrial accidents

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/39 of 25 May 1989, in paragraph 3 of which it requested the Executive Director to set up a network of organizations and experts to facilitate the exchange of information and prevention of industrial accidents that might impact negatively on the environment and to provide assistance in the case of emergencies, and to report thereon to the Council at its sixteenth regular session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on industrial accidents, 54/

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in developing the APELL (awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level) process and in initiating concrete local and national activities for enhancing public awareness and preparedness;

2. Takes note of the recommendations of the senior-level expert advisory group at its second meeting, held in Paris from 3 to 5 December 1990; 55/

3. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and world industry to continue to support the widespread implementation of the APELL process to all industrial areas through generous financial contributions or technical assistance;

54/ UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1, paras. 1-14.

55/ Ibid., para. 14.

4. Takes note of the progress made in identifying organizations and experts capable of providing information and assistance in the case of emergencies;

5. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to develop the APELL process and promote its implementation by providing expertise, advice and technical assistance where action has been initiated, by the preparation of the necessary publications and by supporting human resources development in this field;

(b) To continue developing the network for the exchange of information and technology for the prevention of industrial accidents and the provision of assistance in the case of emergencies, with particular emphasis on the prevention aspect.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/33. Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/37 of 25 May 1989 on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology and, in particular, its paragraph 1,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on transfer of environmentally sound technology, 56/

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress in the gathering, processing and world-wide dissemination of information on cleaner production by the international Cleaner Production Information Clearing-House of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and the inputs from the working groups in the cleaner production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry associations and academics to develop and initiate cleaner production activities and to participate in their implementation;

3. Calls upon the Executive Director:

(a) To support, within the cleaner production programme, the initiation and development of cleaner production activities in different regions;

(b) To develop educational and training activities to help institutions and Governments in developing cleaner production programmes;

56/ UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1, paras. 15-26.

(c) To promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/34. International environmental technology centre

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increasingly serious environmental problems, including air and water pollution, in many mega-cities in developing countries,

Recognizing also the scarcity of freshwater in many parts of developing countries,

Convinced that transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries is essential in their endeavours to cope with these problems,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to identify concrete ways and means of such transfer,

Noting with appreciation the valuable activities that the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre has been performing in the field of, inter alia, cleaner production, and recognizing that it should play a major role in the coordination undertaken by the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in the areas related to the activities for which the office is responsible,

1. Notes with appreciation the progress towards the establishment of an international environmental technology centre:

2. Calls upon the Executive Director:

(a) To continue his efforts to work out the details of the centre and to establish it, provided that the centre would be an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme and thereby be under its supervision, and that satisfactory assurances are secured concerning the international origin if the technologies and expertise available, with a view to guaranteeing its full international status, assurances which should be reflected in the organizational structure, personnel and programmes of the centre, through, inter alia, the establishment of an international advisory board composed of members with various backgrounds, including the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre;

(b) To ensure that the activities of the centre are fully coordinated with and complement activities of relevant units of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular, the cleaner production and other relevant activities of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and activities taking place under the auspices of the Global Environment Monitoring System, or other organizations within the United Nations system,

and that the centre is dedicated to transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition by means of providing training and consulting services, carrying out research, and accumulating and disseminating related information with special focus on environmentally sustainable management of big cities and fresh-water lake/reservoir basins;

3. Also calls upon the Executive Director to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the outcome of the consultations with the Government of Japan before proceeding to the establishment of the centre;

4. Decides that, in the event that the centre is established initially in the biennium 1992-1993, financial support from the Environment Fund to the centre for the biennium would be limited to the amount mentioned under activity 6, programme element 12.1, subprogramme 12 (Technical and regional cooperation) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 57/ on a trial basis;

5. Calls upon Governments, United Nations organizations and bodies, other international and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate and support the development and activities of the centre in the event that the centre is established;

6. Requests the Executive Director to explore, within the context of the present decision, the possibility of establishing centres of this type in equal numbers in developed and developing countries and to report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session;

7. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, for its consideration in the context of the preparatory process for the Conference.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/35. Toxic chemicals

The Governing Council,

I

Recalling its decision 85 (V) of 25 May 1977, in paragraph 2 of which it urged Governments to take steps to ensure that potentially harmful chemicals, in whatever form or commodity, which are unacceptable for domestic purposes in the exporting country, are not permitted to be exported without the knowledge and consent of appropriate authorities in the importing country,

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57/ UNEP/GC.16/15, as amended by the Council by paragraph 2 of its decision 16/23 of 31 May 1991.

Recalling also its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987, in which the Council adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which constitute an important step towards the implementation of decision 85 (V),

Recalling further its decision 15/30 of 25 May 1989, in which the Council adopted the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which incorporate the prior informed consent procedure in order fully to implement decision 85 (V), and requested the Executive Director to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts that developed the prior informed consent procedure and other modalities to supplement the 1987 London Guidelines,

Noting that the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its twenty-fifth session, in November 1989, adopted the amendments to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, by which the prior informed consent procedure was incorporated in the Code in a manner fully compatible with that of the amended London Guidelines, both procedurally and with respect to health and environmental protection,

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through a joint programme, including the work of their Joint Group of Experts on Prior Informed Consent, have been sharing the operational procedure,

1. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to designate national authorities for the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in particular the prior informed consent procedure;

2. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme continue developing model national legislation to assist in the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in close consultation with Governments and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme strengthen consultations with the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the European Economic Community in order to enhance cooperation and harmonize activities relating to the implementation of the amended London Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

4. Requests the Executive Director to invite the various private sector parties involved in the international trade in chemicals:

(a) To enter into commitments aimed at achieving the objectives laid down in the amended London Guidelines;

(b) To prepare a code of ethics on the international trade in chemicals in consultation with the international organizations concerned;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to take further steps for technical assistance to be provided to developing countries for the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines;

6. Recommends Governments to take all possible domestic measures to ensure that all concerned ministries and bodies in their countries are aware of the prior informed consent procedures;

7. Urges Governments to adopt, as appropriate, national legislation or to amend existing national legislation in order to incorporate necessary measures to implement the prior informed consent procedure and to prevent exports that contravene prior informed consent decisions by importing countries participating in the procedure;

8. Requests the Executive Director to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group for further urgent action, including work on strengthening the legal basis of the amended London Guidelines, taking into consideration, inter alia, experience gained in the implementation of the Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

II

Having taken note of paragraph 3 of decision 2/17 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in which the Committee invited the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Labour Organisation, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, to report ongoing work, carried out through appropriate governmental expert meetings, concerning possible proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals,

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals;

2. Further requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene in consultation with the executive heads of the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, within the context of the collaboration under the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Economic Community, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other relevant international organizations, a technical meeting of government experts to consider the draft proposals and, in consultation with the executive heads of the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization and through the appropriate channels, to submit to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session a report on the outcome of the meeting.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/36. Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system

The Governing Council,

Concerned at the changes in the global life-supporting system as a result of human activity,

Considering that the understanding of the changes and their consequences is a necessary step towards mitigating or adapting to them,

Cognizant that proper monitoring of the changes is an indispensable element of an environmentally sound strategy for sustainable development,

Considering that the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the World Climate Programme play an essential role in improving the understanding of the causes and consequences of global changes, including global climate change,

Noting General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly recommended that Governments continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and that the international scientific community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities,

Noting also the final statement of the scientific and technical sessions of the Second World Climate Conference, which, inter alia, called for a special initiative that would create a network of regional interdisciplinary research centres, located primarily in developing countries, and focusing on all of the natural science, social science, and engineering disciplines required to support fully integrated studies of global change and its impacts and policy responses, 58/

1. Welcomes the initiative of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme to address regional problems of global importance through its Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START);

2. Appeals to all States to establish and support national committees for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme;

3. States that the START activities of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme in the developing regions deserve the support of the Governments from within and outside the region concerned;

4. Requests the Executive Director to provide, within available resources, support to the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme regional

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58/ A/45/696/Add.1, annex II, sect. C, para. 11.

research centres and networks, which should be planned and implemented in conjunction with the relevant World Climate Programme activities.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/37. Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a report, on the basis of the views of Member States and existing national and international legislation in the field, containing proposals and recommendations on, inter alia, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies,

Underlining the importance of strengthening the capacity of Earthwatch to make authoritative statements, to anticipate environmental degradation and to issue early warnings to the international community,

Noting that the general objectives of Earthwatch, as defined in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as adopted by the Governing Council in its decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, are "to accumulate and improve reliable and comparable scientific and technical information about environmental issues and to develop and apply means of collecting, storing, retrieving and processing such information in a way that will make it readily available to decision makers and specialists" and "to provide comprehensive assessments of environmental issues on the basis of socio-economic data and data on the major components and processes of the global and regional environments, to monitor, in an appropriate way, the transition towards sustainable development", 59/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental emergencies 60/ and requests that it be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, together with its supplement, which summarizes the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system;

2. Considers that assessments are particularly needed in all those areas of concentration identified by the Governing Council in section IV of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 and enumerated by the General Assembly in resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 for consideration at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

59/ UNEP/GCSS.1/7/Add.1, paras. 332 and 343.

60/ UNEP/GC.16/17, annex.

3. Further considers that Earthwatch should also be able to accommodate emerging issues as and when the need arises;

4. Recommends that, in keeping with its mandate, Earthwatch should identify global and regional environmental monitoring and assessment needs, coordinate and harmonize global, regional and national monitoring and assessment programmes to the extent required, prepare comprehensive assessment statements, inventories and analytical statements, give advanced warning of emerging environmental threats, advise on causal relationships of observed environmental changes, and suggest policy responses and management options where necessary;

5. Further recommends that Earthwatch should pay particular attention to the interface between environment and development;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the environmental monitoring and assessment capacities of developing countries to enable them to participate actively and more fully in Earthwatch;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare detailed proposals for ensuring adequate financial and institutional support to enable Earthwatch to carry out fully its mandated programmes, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session, on the basis of the decisions taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's report.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/38. Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/24 of 17 June 1987 and 15/38 of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements, 61/

1. Notes that, with the support of the Government of Germany, the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement has been established at Munich, Germany;

2. Further notes that, apart from the voluntary contributions from the Government of Germany, no other financial contributions have been forthcoming, and that without such contributions the project will have to be terminated;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue contacting Governments to seek support for the project;

61/ UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1, paras. 1-8.

4. Further requests the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement to continue to conduct its activities in close consultation with the competent United Nations agencies;

5. Appeals to Governments and international organizations to assist the project to fulfil its objectives by, inter alia, providing financial resources and seconding staff;

6. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to participate actively in the implementation of the project.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/39. Freshwater resources

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the increasing threats to freshwater resources in many parts of the world,

Stressing the urgent need for decisive action, inter alia, to achieve integrated and efficient management of freshwater resources, in particular in arid and semi-arid areas, and to make available safe water and sanitation, particularly to people in poverty-stricken areas,

Emphasizing the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of freshwater resources,

Taking note of paragraphs 3 to 5 of decision 2/20 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee, inter alia, invited the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be held in Dublin in January 1992, to consider an action framework on sustainable development and management of freshwater resources, and invited Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other interested organizations to engage actively in the preparatory process leading to the Conference,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparations for the Dublin Conference;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give full support to the preparations for the Dublin Conference, including financial contributions within available resources.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/40. Protection of the ozone layer

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.II/2 of 3 August 1990 on new developments in the protection of the ozone layer,

Noting the efforts being made with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 62/ held in London, from 27 to 29 June 1990, including the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund,

Noting that the adjustments to the Montreal Protocol, 63/ which have already come into force, and the Amendment to the Protocol 64/ are interconnected,

Noting that, as at 22 May 1991, only 10,197,609 dollars, from a total of nine States, had been contributed to the Fund,

1. Urges States that have not already done so to ratify, accept or approve the Montreal Protocol;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept or approve the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol adopted by the Second Meeting of the Parties, so that the Amendment can enter into force on 1 January 1992;

3. Urges the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention and the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol to enable the Ozone Secretariat to implement the decisions of the parties;

4. Endorses the efforts of the Executive Director in promoting the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund and requests him to undertake appropriate actions expeditiously to develop and implement the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, as an executing agency of the Fund, for the Executive Committee of the Fund, and to report thereon to the Governing Council;

5. Urges the parties to the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions towards the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund as soon as possible, in line with decision II/8 of the Second Meeting of the Parties, so that the various activities under the Fund can be conducted in a timely manner.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

62/ UNEP/OzL.Pro.2/3, para. 40.

63/ Ibid., annex I.

64/ Ibid., annex II.

16/41. Climate change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change and its decisions SS.II/3 A, B and C of 3 August 1990 on the Second World Climate Conference, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and on the negotiations for a framework convention on climate change, respectively,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990 on climate change and, in particular, its paragraphs 1, 7, 12 and 21,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Second World Climate Conference,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the Second World Climate Conference, 65/ the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 66/ and the framework convention on climate change, 67/

Noting the resolution 3.2.5/5 (Cg-XI) of 23 May 1991 of the Eleventh Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, on the World Climate Programme and its coordination, and, in particular, bearing in mind the work that has been done in these areas by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the establishment of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, which supersedes the World Climate Impact Studies Programme, and the indication in that resolution that the Global Climate Observing System is an essential activity associated with the World Climate Programme,

Noting resolution XVI-10 of the Sixteenth Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in which it was decided to undertake the development of a Global Ocean Observing System, and the associated statement and declaration on a Global Ocean Observing System containing a recommendation for adoption by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

I. Protection of global climate

Urges States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support actions aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity;

65/ UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 1-14.

66/ Ibid., paras. 15-27.

67/ Ibid., paras. 28-31.

II. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Urges States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support the negotiating process aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity;

2. Requests the Executive Director with due consideration of the immediacy of the process:

(a) To support fully the intergovernmental negotiating process through, inter alia, contributing to the cost of the negotiating process, including its funding, if necessary by examining the scope for savings in other Environment Fund activities or using a portion of the Environment Fund reserve;

(b) To support the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee through the secondment of an appropriate staff member from the United Nations Environment Programme, and responding positively to further requests for secondment from within available resources;

(c) To make available to the secretariat of the Committee all relevant information and data collected by the Programme, including the results of its work on climate change impact assessments and response strategies and on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change;

III. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

1. Expresses its appreciation to the World Meteorological Organization for co-sponsoring the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. Expresses its gratitude to Governments and organizations for their support of the Panel's activities;

3. Commends the Panel for completing its First Assessment Report in less than two years;

4. Further urges Governments to strengthen their active participation in the work carried out by the Panel, its working groups and task forces;

5. Supports, considering the need for further assessments of all aspects of climate change, the continuation of the Panel and reaffirms its terms of reference as contained in Council decision SS.II/3 B;

6. Urges Governments and organizations to continue and increase their cash contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund;

7. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To intensify cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Panel in the area of climate change impact assessments, including case-studies on the vulnerability to sea-level rise of small island countries and low-lying coastal areas and studies to assess response options and their cost implications;

(b) To support expert consultations on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

8. Welcomes the Panel's recognition that its structure and the representation of developing countries on its bureau need to be reviewed and urges the Panel to give this task high priority;

9. Requests the Panel, through its Chairman, to report on the progress of its activities to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session;

IV. World Climate Programme

1. Urges all States to take appropriate steps to promote national climate activities and to support implementation of the World Climate Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To assume responsibility for the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular, with the World Meteorological Organization, which should continue to provide the overall cooperation in the implementation of the World Climate Programme;

(b) To join the World Meteorological Organization and other international agencies which, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, co-sponsored the Second World Climate Conference, in the future development of the World Climate Programme;

(c) To join the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Council of Scientific Unions and other relevant organizations in establishing a coordinating Committee for the World Climate Programme;

(d) To intensify closer cooperation and better communication between the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and related national, regional and international levels of climate activities, and to support the proposed intergovernmental meeting to discuss coordination and resources for the Programme;

(e) To support, within available resources, the creation of a Global Climate Observing System, including its component parts - World Weather Watch, Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Ocean Observing System - and to assist in ensuring that its development and implementation, overseen by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System, is pursued with urgency by scientists, Governments and international organizations;

(f) To report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session on the progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme;

3. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To support research efforts, including those by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to anticipate and respond to adverse impacts of climate change at the global and regional levels, bearing in mind the special interests of small island countries and the need for inclusion of cost-benefit analyses;

(b) To assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries and small island countries, in country-specific studies to estimate the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change and identifying the available technology and technology needs on a country-by-country basis;

(c) To strengthen, within available resources, public information programmes on the role of climate in development and on the additional risks posed by climate variability and change, within the framework of Earthwatch/Global Environmental Monitoring System;

(d) To enhance and expand the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to achieving a greater scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/42. Preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 15/34 of 25 May 1989 and SS.II/5 of 3 August 1990 on an international legal instrument on biological diversity,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress in the preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity, 68/

Stressing that both the conservation of biological diversity and the rational use of biological resources shall be integral and inseparable elements of the convention,

Recognizing the desirability of having the convention ready for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the decision of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity established pursuant to decision 15/34 to

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68/ Ibid., paras. 32-39.

recommend that the matter of renaming the Group should be addressed to the Council at its sixteenth session, as the body with appropriate authority to make relevant decisions, 69/

1. Decides to rename the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity the "Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity";

2. Affirms that the change of name does not mean a new negotiating body nor affect the continuity of the process of elaborating the convention;

3. Further affirms that participation in meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts at its second session; 70/

4. Invites the members of the Ecosystems Conservation Group to continue to provide technical assistance and legal support to the negotiations on a convention on biological diversity.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/43. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting with appreciation the services of the Governments and international governmental organizations that act as depositaries of various international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 71/

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the updated report, on its behalf, together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

3. Requests the Executive Director to make the report and the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the

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69/ Ibid., para. 39.

70/ UNEP/Bio.Div/WG.2/2/5, annex.

71/ UNEP/GC.16/19 and Corr.1.

Environment 72/ available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session;

4. Calls upon the Executive Director, in furtherance of the objectives of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to cooperate fully in reviewing the effectiveness of existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;

5. Urges those States that have not already done so to sign, ratify, accede to and implement relevant conventions in the field of the environment.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/44. The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1990-1991 and proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995

The Governing Council,

Having considered the annual reports of the Executive Director for 1989 and 1990, 73/ as well as his report on the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in 1990-1991 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, 74/ together with his comments on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989 and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;

1. Takes note of the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1988-1989 ended 31 December 1989;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or pledged to contribute to the Fund at a higher level in 1990, 1991 and beyond;

3. Reconfirms the target of 100 million dollars for contributions to the Environment Fund by the year 1992, approved by the Council by section V, paragraph 1, of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989;

4. Notes the Executive Director's view that contributions of 250 million dollars will be required by 1995 to allow the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its tasks;

5. Affirms, in this regard, the desirability of working towards a level substantially higher than the present level of contributions to the

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72/ UNEP/GC.16/INF.4.

73/ UNEP/GC.16/2 and UNEP/GC.16/3.

74/ UNEP/GC.16/23 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

Environment Fund by 1995, fully commensurate with the demands placed upon the Programme as a result of the urgent and increasing environmental problems that the Programme must address;

6. Calls upon all Governments to contribute or to increase their contributions on a voluntary basis to the Environment Fund accordingly;

7. Notes with concern that, although the overall level of contributions to the Environment Fund has increased, the number of countries contributing to the Fund has decreased, and calls upon all Governments that are not contributing to make every effort to do so;

8. Strongly appeals again to all Governments to pay their contributions, either before the end of the year preceding that to which their contributions relate, or as near as possible to the beginning of the year to which they relate;

9. Approves an appropriation of 150 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1992-1993;

10. Decides to apportion the appropriation for Fund programme activities in that biennium as follows, the corresponding total apportionments for 1990-1991 being indicated for comparison:

Subprogramme/budget line	1992-1993 (Thousands of United States dollars)	Percentage	1990-1991 (Thousands of United States dollars)	Percentage
1. Atmosphere	7 000	4.7	2 700	4.0
2. Water	8 840	5.9	3 400	5.0
3. Terrestrial ecosystems	20 550	13.7	11 900	17.5
4. Oceans	11 950	8.0	7 000	10.3
5. Lithosphere	500	0.3	600	0.9
6. Human settlements and environment	3 350	2.2	1 300	1.9
7. Human health and welfare	2 500	1.7	1 500	2.2
8. Energy, industry and transportation	10 750	7.2	4 300	6.3
9. Environmental assessment	28 050	18.7	14 800	21.8
10. Environmental management measures	17 460	11.6	3 900	5.7
11. Environmental awareness	19 500	13.0	9 000	13.2
12. Technical and regional cooperation	19 550	13.0	7 200	10.6
Total	150 000	100.0	67 600	99.4 75/

75/ The appropriation for 1990-1991 included an apportionment of $400,000 (0.6 per cent) for the former subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment), which was deleted by Council decision 16/23 of 31 May 1991.

11. Approves an additional appropriation for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1992-1993 of 30 million dollars, as set out below, on the understanding that this additional appropriation will be used only as and when additional resources become available to the Environment Fund once the programme of 150 million dollars has been initiated and after consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into consideration the following apportionment:

Subprogramme/budget line	Amount (Thousands of United States dollars)	Percentage
1. Atmosphere	2 000	6.6
2. Water	2 700	9.0
3. Terrestrial ecosystems	4 180	13.9
4. Oceans	2 530	8.4
5. Lithosphere	150	0.5
6. Human settlements and environment	650	2.2
7. Human health and welfare	500	1.7
8. Energy, industry and transportation	2 150	7.2
9. Environmental assessment	5 500	18.3
10. Environmental management measures	2 940	9.8
11. Environmental awareness	2 900	9.7
12. Technical and regional cooperation	3 800	12.7
Total	30 000	100.0

12. Requests the Executive Director, in the event of a shortfall of the expected contributions below the level required to finance the agreed programme for 1992-1993:

(a) To take into account the following alternative courses of action in formulating his response to the shortfall:

(i) Allocation to the higher priority areas identified in table 2 of the proposed budget programme for 1992-1993 76/ of all the appropriations previously approved for them in the programme, with appropriate new allocations to other priority areas to the full extent of the remaining funds; or,

(ii) A 15 per cent cut in all programme allocations;

(b) To put his proposed response to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, so that it can consider it and make recommendations;

(c) To act in accordance with the Committee's recommendations;

76/ UNEP/GC.16/15.

13. Approves an appropriation of 5 million dollars to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1992-1993;

14. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1992-1993;

15. Stresses again the need to maintain the liquidity of the Fund at all times;

16. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in 1994-1995;

17. Requests the Executive Director to draw up a programme for Fund activities in 1994-1995 with a core programme of 160 million dollars and a supplementary programme of 40 million dollars;

18. Requests the Executive Director to continue to keep the status of the Environment Fund under review and, in the event that he considers it necessary to adjust the 1994-1995 planning figures, to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and, additionally, in the event that contributions to the Environment Fund continue to increase at a high rate, to consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives with regard to drawing up an additional programme and, in either event, to act in accordance with the recommendations put forward by the Committee;

19. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meetings on matters relating to programme implementation and planning, including expenditure and income profiles and planning assumptions at the programme activity level;

20. Requests the Executive Director to consider ways of ensuring a more stable and wider basis for voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund, including the possible use of appropriate indicative comparisons, and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/45. Programme and programme support costs

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision 15/45 of 18 May 1989, in which it approved an appropriation of 29,087,000 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as well as section VI, paragraph 6, of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, in which it approved a further supplementary appropriation of 3.17 million dollars to be used by the Executive Director during the biennium 1990-1991 only as and when he was in a position to fill some or all of the posts approved by the Council within the programme and programme support costs budget,

Having considered the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 77/ which reviews the implementation of the budget as at 31 December 1990, as well as the proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993, as set out in his report on programme and programme support costs, 78/ and as revised in his report on relevant recent developments, 79/ together with the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 80/

1. Takes note of the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Notes that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1990 within the yardstick established in paragraph 2 of Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions and that he will endeavour to do so in 1991 and future years;

3. Notes with concern, however, that the programme and programme support costs in 1990 were contained within the 33 per cent of contributions yardstick on the basis of a 24 per cent vacancy rate, greatly differing from the planned estimate of 10 per cent, and requests the Executive Director to make all possible efforts to reduce the actual vacancy rate with due attention to the 33 per cent yardstick;

4. Reconfirms the total appropriation of 32,257,000 dollars, including the supplementary appropriation, previously authorized for 1990-1991 with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

5. Approves an initial appropriation of 37,129,000 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates, with the understanding that the re-apportionment of any savings realized in the administration of the appropriation due to a higher than expected vacancy rate will be subject to the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

6. Further approves a supplementary appropriation for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1992-1993 of 3,701,600 dollars, including 1,601,100 dollars on a loan basis towards the construction of new office accommodation subject to the final approval of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and 2,100,500 dollars towards the creation of new posts, making a total appropriation of 40,830,600 dollars;

77/ UNEP/GC.16/22 and Corr.1 and 2, part one.

78/ Ibid., part two.

79/ UNEP/GC.16/22/Add.1.

80/ UNEP/GC.16/L.1 and Corr.1.

7. Requests that should there be a shortfall in the expected level of contributions to the Environment Fund, the Executive Director should continue to keep programme and programme support costs expenditures within 33 per cent of contributions and at the same time approve allocations in accordance with the following order of priority:

	Millions of dollars
Programme and programme support costs as proposed in the Executive Director's original report on the subject	35.24
Loan to the regular budget for the construction of new office accommodation	3.49
Supplementary appropriation for programme and programme support costs other than the costs of construction of new office accommodation	2.10
Total	40.83

8. Further requests that the supplementary appropriation of 2.1 million dollars for programme and programme support costs, other than the costs of construction of new office accommodation, be utilized only after the following allocations for Fund programme and Fund programme reserve activities have been made:

	Millions of dollars
Programme of Fund activities	150.00
Fund programme reserve	5.00
Additional programme of Fund activities	30.00
Total	185.00

9. Approves under the initial appropriation of 37,129,000 dollars for the biennium 1992-1993 the creation of one D-1, one P-5, two P-3 and four local-level posts in the Clearing-house Unit of the Office of the Executive Director;

10. Approves the Executive Director's proposals to transfer from the programme and programme support costs budget to the Fund programme budget one P-5, one P-4 and two local-level posts in the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit of the Office of the Environment Programme in the light of the Council's decision to reconstitute that Unit as a programme activity centre;

11. Approves, under the supplementary appropriation for the biennium 1992-1993, the creation of an additional 20 Professional and 29 local-level

posts, subject to the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as follows:

(a) Office of the Environment Programme: one D-1 (environmental economics), five P-5 (atmosphere, soils, human health, energy and environmental economics), three P-4 (water, biodiversity and environmental training) and 10 local-level posts;

(b) Conferences and Governing Council Service: transfer of six P-4, one P-2 and 15 local-level posts from Fund programme activities to the programme and programme support costs budget;

(c) Administrative Service: one D-1, one P-4, two P-3 and four local-level posts to strengthen the electronic data-processing and management information systems units;

12. Requests the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 with the utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources;

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session on the implementation of the programme and programme support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1992-1993.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/46. Trust funds

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on additional sources of funding and management of trust funds, 81/

1. Takes note of the report on additional sources of funding and management of trust funds and the developments relating to trust funds administered by the Executive Director, as described in his annual reports for 1989 and 1990, 82/

2. Expresses its appreciation to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and other organizations that have increased their support to the programme by means of contributions to trust funds, specific counterpart activities and contributions in kind;

81/ UNEP/GC.16/24.

82/ UNEP/GC.16/2 and UNEP/GC.16/3.

3. Notes with approval the establishment by the Executive Director since the fifteenth session of the Governing Council, under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical cooperation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(b) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, financed by the Government of the United States of America - until 31 December 1993;

(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Forestry Officer, financed by the Government of the United States of America - until 30 June 1991;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Austria - without a specific expiry date;

(e) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Financing of Professional Officers, financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea - until 31 December 1991;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries, financed by the Swedish International Development Agency - until 31 December 1991;

(g) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of France - without a specific expiry date;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Financing of Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Finland - without a specific expiry date;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict Between Kuwait and Iraq;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility;

4. Also notes with approval the extension by the Executive Director, under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of technical cooperation trust funds, as follows:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery, financed by the Government of Germany - until 31 December 1992;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism through Provision of Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environmental Problems, financed by the Government of Norway - until 31 December 1991;

(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries, financed by the Government of Finland - until 31 December 1992;

(e) Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management, financed by the Government of Sweden - until 31 December 1993;

5. Also notes with approval the change in name by the Executive Director, under the authority delegated to him by the Secretary-General, of the technical cooperation trust fund now entitled "Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID", financed by the Government of Denmark;

6. Further notes the closure by the Executive Director of the following technical cooperation trust funds:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to the UNEP Ozone Secretariat, financed by the Government of the United States of America;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Control of Environmental Health Hazards and Promotion of Chemical Safety, financed by the Government of Germany;

(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP to Assist in the Development and Implementation of Policy Response Options Related to Climate Change, financed by the Government of the Netherlands;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers, financed by the Government of Finland;

7. Approves, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:

(a) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme - until 31 December 1993;

(b) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - until 31 December 1995;

(c) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean - until 31 December 1993;

8. Approves, subject to confirmation by the Governments concerned and the approval of the Secretary-General, the extension of general trust funds, as follows:

(a) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region - until 31 December 1993;

(b) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas - until 31 December 1993;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - until 30 June 1993;

(d) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution - until 31 December 1993;

(e) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region - until 31 December 1993;

(f) Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals - until 31 December 1993;

(g) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - until 31 March 1995;

(h) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer - until 31 March 1995;

9. Notes with approval the establishment authorized by the Secretary-General of the general trust fund entitled "Trust Fund for the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" from 1 January 1991 through 31 December 1993 and the request made to the Executive Director to act as treasurer of the Fund;

10. Invites Governments to continue and increase their support in the form of funds for the employment in the United Nations Environment Programme of additional staff, including staff from developing countries, and as for Junior Professional Officers, their employment should as far as possible include staff from developing countries;

11. Requests the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis with overview of staffing through trust funds, indicating also all other sources of financing of United Nations Environment Programme staff and, in particular, providing information on any developments regarding the recruitment of Junior Professional Officers by the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. Also invites Governments to increase their financial support to specific activities within the programme provided that this increase is not at the expense of increased contributions to the Environment Fund;

13. Urges intergovernmental organizations, regional banks, non-governmental organizations and private corporations to increase their financial support to activities within the approved programme;

14. Requests the Executive Director, in view of the proliferation of trust funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme, to evaluate the consequences for the operation of the Programme of this proliferation and produce options for reducing the number of such funds and report thereon to the Council at its seventeenth regular session.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

16/47. Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Facility, 83/

1. Welcomes the establishment of the Global Environment Facility on a pilot basis;

2. Endorses the actions taken by the Executive Director to support the establishment of the Facility and to collaborate with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in its implementation;

3. Notes the concern expressed by some countries about the use of the per capita criterion, which has the effect of excluding some countries;

4. Further welcomes the actions taken by the Executive Director, in consultation with the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in establishing the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel;

5. Notes that the United Nations Environment Programme is required to help ensure that the global policy framework for the Global Environment Facility is consistent with existing environmental conventions and related legal instruments and agreements, and that the experience generated by the Facility will be helpful in developing new treaties and agreements, 84/

6. Further notes that the United Nations Environment Programme is to play a key role in helping developing countries to define their needs to deal with global environmental issues supported by the Global Environment Facility and will disseminate information on existing and emerging technological developments;

83/ UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2.

84/ UNEP/GC.16/24/Add.2, para. 7.

7. Approves the actions of the Executive Director in seeking to secure funding or recover all legitimate costs, as appropriate, from the Global Environment Facility in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its designated role under the Facility while implementing its programme under the Environment Fund;

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue to cooperate fully with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in the development and implementation of the pilot Facility;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to include in his annual reports to the Governing Council an account of the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, with regular interim reports to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

8th meeting
31 May 1991

Other decision

Provisional agenda, date and place of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 31 May 1991, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its seventeenth session at Nairobi from 10 to 21 May 1993.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 9 May 1993, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) General policy issues;

   (b) Issues arising from the resolution of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. State of the environment.

6. Coordination:

   (a) Coordination within the United Nations system;

   (b) Other coordination.

7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

8. The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Council.

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

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